## What is a **ZOONOSIS?**

Zoonoses are infections transmitted between animals and humans by contaminated food, contact with skin, body fluids (specially with poop), or contaminated objects, or via bites or scratches.

## Before acquiring a pet...

- Ask your doctor and a vet.
- Talk to your vet about your transplant.
- Avoid acquiring a new pet right after transplantation, when your immune system is weak.
- Dogs and indoor-only cats are in general safer pets.

- Try to avoid:
- puppies and kittens, as they carry more pathogens and the risk of bites and scratches is higher.
- Exotic pets, such as reptiles, amphibians, turtles, rodents, poultry, hedgehogs or prairie dogs.
- Stray and wild animals.

#### Mouth and nose

- Do no make your pet angry! Bites and injuries can get infected by bacteria from the animal's mouth.
- Kisses and licking can be pleasant, but they can also transmit virus and bacteria. Do not let your pets lick your face and never share food with them!

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#### Skin

- •Brush your pets regularly, especially if they go outdoors. Check for ticks after walking in nature!
- •If you develop allergy symptoms, asthma or dermatitis, consult your doctor, as they might be pet related.

## **Nails** Keep nails short to reduce risk of scratches. I have to be carefull with

#### Poop

Do not handle pet poop! If there is no other option, use gloves, and always wash your hands. If no one else can clean the cages and litter boxes, use also a standard surgical mask.

#### **General**

- •All pets should have routine veterinary examinations.
- •Pets should be watched for signs of disease, and prompt consultation if disease is suspected.
- •Follow the basic guidelines for pet care provided by your veterinarian.
- •Get them vaccinated! This will protect both you and your animal. Remember, your vet needs to know about your transplant to choose your pets immunizations!



#### At the vet

- •The frequency of visits, deworming and vaccines may vary upon your
- •Deworming at least every three months in outdoor cats and dogs is recommended, but the recommended frequency can go up to once a month: follow your vet's advice!
- If your pet gets sick, get early advice.



- •Do not share food and/or water devices with your pet. Keep human food for humans!
- •Keep cages and cat litter boxes out of the kitchen and dining room.
- Never feed your pet raw food!



### **YOUR BEST** FRIEND

Guide to pet care households with immunosuppressed children.





- health status.



Avoid rough playing. You don't want to get bitten or \*\*scratched!

> Train your pet! It may take time, but a well-trained pet is much safer!

#### Pet cleaning

- •Wash your hands after contact with animals.
- •If you have a transplant, avoid cleaning litter boxes, bird cages, feeders or fish tanks or cleaning after your dog when possible.
- Clean bird cages on a daily basis. Scoop cat litter daily and change sand at least twice a week.

#### On the ride

- •Don't let your pet hunt! By eating wild animals (or their poop) your pet can get sick.
- After walking your pet, check for ticks and remove them quickly using tweezers.
- •If you contact other people's pets or farm animals, rememeber to wash your hands. They might not be as immunized and dewormed as yours!  $\star$

#### **Bed Time**

Sharing your bed or pillow with your pet can be pleasant...but is not recommended.

Keep pet's cages or pillows out of the patient's room.



