**Parasite Prevention and Your Indoor Cat**

Before you decide your indoor-only cat doesn’t need parasite prevention consider these important facts.

* Cockroaches, mice, and flies all can carry roundworm eggs. Cats are natural hunters, and will hunt them!
* 15 percent of commercial potting soil contains roundworm eggs.
* The Northeast has the highest prevalence of roundworms than any other part of the country.
* Other animals in the household that do go outside – like dogs and people – can bring in different parasites that can affect the indoor cat.
* A study conducted in 2007 by the Centers for Disease Control proves that almost 14 percent of the U.S. population is infected with *Toxocara –* much higher than what was originally thought.
* The same study also states “ Although most persons infected with *Toxocara* have no

symptoms, the parasite is capable of causing blindness and other symptomatic illness.”

* Children and immune-compromised people – such as cancer patients, people with HIV or AIDS, and organ transplants – are more susceptible of being infected with these parasites.
* 40 percent of immune-compromised people have a pet at home.
* Roundworm, or *Toxocara cati*, are prolific egg producers and are estimated to produce as many as 24,000 eggs per day.
* It is estimated that 3 million to 6 million people in the United States may be infected with *Toxocara* (roundworm) larva migrans each year.
* In just 30 days, 25 female fleas can multiply to more than 250,000.

