

In Response: We agree with Montgomery et al. (1) that Chagas disease is not directly transmitted by dogs to humans. However, we emphasize that Chagas disease is in the southern United States even if risk for infection is extremely low. A study in Mexico found direct correlation of seropositivity between humans and dogs, suggesting that testing dogs may help identify prevalence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* infection among humans. They stated, “Dogs may be domestic reservoir hosts and help maintain human transmission of *T. cruzi*” (2).

For toxocarasis, indeed only embryonated eggs are infectious. In a study in the Netherlands (3), ~25% of *Toxocara* eggs found on fur were fertilized, but none were viable after 6 weeks; presence of embryonated eggs on dog fur is uncommon but can occur.

We did not mention all zoonoses that could be transmitted in a bedroom, such as toxoplasmosis or ringworm, because we could not identify

publications specifically documenting contamination in that environment. We can, however, cite examples of other infections, such as *Cheyletiella blakei* dermatitis in a woman who shared her bed with a recently acquired cat (4). We also reiterate the potential risk for human infection by the plague bacillus (*Yersinia pestis*) as a result of bed sharing, as illustrated by the case reported from Oregon in 2010 (5).

Although the risk of contracting a zoonosis in the bedroom is low, it remains possible. Bed sharing with pets should be avoided, especially for those who are immunocompromised, young, or elderly.

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Vol. 17, No. 4

References were misnumbered in the article Complete Sequence and Molecular Epidemiology of IncK Epidemic Plasmid Encoding *bla*_{CTX-M-14} (J.L. Cottell, et al.). The article has been corrected online (<http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/17/4/645.htm>).

etymologia

Melioidosis

[me"le-oi-do'sis]

From the Greek *melis*, distemper of asses, *oidēs*, resemblance, and *osis*, a suffix indicating an abnormal condition or disease. Alfred Whitmore, a British pathologist serving in Burma, and his assistant C. S. Krishnaswami first described melioidosis in 1912. The infection became known as Whitmore's disease. In 1925, Ambrose T. Stanton and William Fletcher, the researchers who identified *Burkholderia pseudomallei* as the infection's causative agent, renamed the infection melioidosis because of its clinical resemblance to glanders.

Source: Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary. 31st edition. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2007; Stanton AT, Fletcher W. Melioidosis, a disease of rodents communicable to man. *Lancet*. 1925;205:10–3. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(01)04724-9