

# Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control

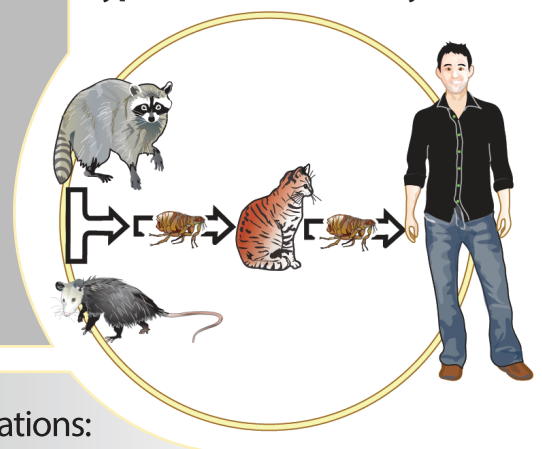
## PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

**WARNING:** Flea-borne typhus has been detected in Orange County. Fleas found on cats, dogs, raccoons, and opossums can carry the bacterium that causes flea-borne typhus in humans.

### Transmission:

Typhus bacteria are transferred to humans as the result of flea bites. Infected fleas have the bacteria in their feces and will often defecate while biting and feeding. When a person scratches the flea bite, he/she can allow some of the feces and bacteria to enter the blood stream. People can also become infected by transferring the bacteria to their eyes, nose, or mouth.

### Typhus Transmission Cycle



### Prevention:

The disease is transmitted by the common cat flea which can be found on opossums, raccoons, skunks, feral and domestic cats, dogs, and other mammals. To reduce your exposure to fleas, follow these guidelines:

- \* Remove pet food and other outside food sources.
- \* Cover garbage containers.
- \* Trim vegetation around buildings to discourage wildlife.
- \* If you see dead opossums, cats or other animals on your property, call your local animal control agency.
- \* Keep pet cats indoors as much as possible and consult with your veterinarian about flea control products.

### Recommendations:

- \* Apply topical flea control products to all cats and dogs (example: K9 Advantix® or Frontline®).
- \* Avoid contact with opossums, raccoons, and feral cats.
- \* Contact Orange County Vector Control District for more information.



Cat Flea

