

## **Cat Scratch Fever**

I recently attended a three day seminar given by professors from Colorado State University Veterinary School. One of the speakers was Dr. Michael Lappin, one of the nation's most renowned experts on zoonotic diseases. He presented information that has recently been proven and will be published soon. One interesting finding is that cat scratch fever disease in people is not carried by the cat. It is carried by the flea and passes the bacteria in flea droppings. The cat scratches itself, gets the bacteria on its claws from the flea droppings and mechanically transmits this bacteria when it scratches a person. Also it has now been proven that fleas, as well as ticks, carry lyme disease. The conclusion is that we must keep our pets free of internal and external parasites. That, along with a proper vaccination program will result in a happy, healthy pet and a happy, healthy pet owner.

**Lloyd Leifeste, DVM  
Leifeste Animal Hospital  
1294 Bandera Hwy.  
Kerrville, TX 78028-9603  
830-896-4600**