



The Hong Kong Veterinary Association Ltd

Press Release

Toxoplasmosis is an important zoonotic disease. However, cats are not the main source of infection to human beings. It is uncommon to catch *Toxoplasma* from cats as they are only infectious for a single brief period of 7 – 10 days once in their lives. In Hong Kong exposure of cats to toxoplasma is very low as most cats are kept indoors and fed commercial diets. The Hong Kong Veterinary Association (HKVA) has seen the recent articles published in the press on the potential association between brain tumors and toxoplasma infections in human beings. It is important to note that the research article referred to did not prove that toxoplasmosis causes brain tumors in people; rather it concluded that further research was necessary.

The public are advised to thoroughly cook all meat and wash all vegetables. Hands, surfaces, and meat implements should be thoroughly washed after handling raw meat. It is recommended that gloves be worn when gardening and cat litter trays be emptied daily and washed with boiling water. Pregnant women should not handle litter trays. Cats should not be allowed to hunt and children's sand boxes should be covered to prevent soiling by cats.

Concerned pet owners should talk to their veterinarian.

For more information, please refer to the HKVA website (www.hkva.org) or contact the HKVA at (secretary@hkva.org)