

Fido may be full of it—bugs, and disease, that is

A dog may be man's best friend—but he can also be his mortal enemy.

It has long been known that dogs can be carriers of hepatitis, a disease they share with man. But of more concern is a dog's becoming carriers of Rocky Mountain spotted fever and, even worse, of one of the most dread diseases—bubonic plague.

Dogs are not directly responsible. It's the ticks and fleas burrowed into their skin that carry the fever and plague. Ticks and fleas can be the source of the problems.

Inoculations have helped stem the spread of hepatitis. It is now a matter of routine for pet owners to arrange for annual hepatitis shots for their dogs.

In addition, dogs are given shots to protect them from rabid bats, foxes and other animals—and, in turn, to protect humans.

Now groups are being formed to spare city children from dog roundworm larva found in soil contaminated with dog feces. These worms can attack the eyes, liver and respiratory system as well as the walls of blood vessels. Control of roundworm depends upon laws governing dog waste in cities.

BOTH ROCKY MOUNTAIN spotted fever and forms of the plague are turning up more frequently among humans despite medical advances and improved sanitary controls.

Rats are the principal source of the plague, a disease that killed many people in past centuries. The first known plague-carrying rodents arrived in this country on ships in 1894, and the disease still has not been wiped out.

In some sections of the country—principally the West and Southwest—wild rodents of all kinds have been found to be infested with plague-bearing fleas.

Warnings have been issued that household pets coming in contact with

these animals may be a significant source of infection in humans. The droppings of infected animals are considered especially virulent.

Since 1974, the Center for Disease Control reports, there has been an upsurge in human plague cases in this country. They have developed when fleas from wild animals have landed on dogs or humans. Humans in turn have spread the disease further on breath from infected lungs.

THE NUMBER of cases in the U.S. has increased from the two that were reported between 1924 and 1974 to 18 last year. Two of the 1977 victims died. No one knows how many unreported cases occurred because they were not properly diagnosed. Combined insurance said.

While antibiotics are effective against the plague, they must be administered early. And it may take time to diagnose the disease, which acts very fast. The death rate is 20 percent, even in this country.

As for Rocky Mountain spotted fever, the National Safety Council reports that this killer is carried principally by ticks, which burrow into the skin of their unwilling hosts.

Dogs—and children as well as adults—venturing into woods in many parts of the country may be infested by ticks, which may have to be dug out of the skin. Care must be taken to remove the entire insect, for often the head remains behind to do its damage.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN spotted fever, for which a vaccine is available for

humans, is the most prevalent of the tick-borne diseases in the U.S. It is found most often in the northwestern states, but recently, people across the country have been warned against it by health authorities.

The Rocky Mountain tick, about the size of a ladybug, lives on blood. Although it seeks mainly the blood of rodents and other small animals, it will also use human blood.

The ticks generally are found in shrubs or grass near the ground, from which it is a short hop to clothing and then to the human body, with the favorite resting place being the neck or leg.

Spotted fever, which has been mistakenly diagnosed as measles, can

lead to rapid death without antibiotic therapy. Severe cases bring on delirium and muscle spasms.

Besides the flea collars, veter-

inarians suggest preventative shots for pets.

"It's really very cheap insurance against possible tragedy," they say.

Kostelanetz appears with Symphony

Conductor Andre Kostelanetz will appear with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, Oct. 22 at Ford Auditorium in a 3:30 p.m. Kresge Family Concert.

The program will include the overture to Rossini's opera "The Italian Girl in Algiers," Puccini's "Crisantemo," selections from Prokofiev's orchestration of "Romeo and Juliet," selections from De Falla's "El Amor

Brujo," the Detroit premiere of Villa Lobos' Song of the Black Swan, and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio Espagnole."

Kostelanetz first appeared with the symphony in April of 1961. He has been associated with the New York Philharmonic since 1952, and inaugurated their "Promenade" concert series in 1963. This concert marks his seventh appearance conducting the Detroit Symphony.

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