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The **Center for Disease Control** recently published a report entitled "**Zoonosis in the Bedroom**", which has been reported by several new agencies and may cause concern among owners. This is a synopsis of the report and our interpretation of the results of the article.

The report (a link to which can be found at the end of this discussion) mentions several zoonotic diseases (diseases that can be transferred from pets/animals to humans) and points to a link between close contact between pets and their owners (who sleep or kiss them).

However, healthy owners with healthy pets that receive regular veterinary checkups, heartworm prevention and rabies vaccines are at an extremely low risk for contracting these diseases.

Immunocompromised owners, the elderly, and young children are at an increased risk if exposed to these diseases.

Of the zoonotic diseases the CDC lists, the only ones that are considered risks in Volusia county are hookworms and roundworms. These are intestinal parasites of dogs and cats (and raccoons) that most kittens and puppies have and carry even at a very young age. There are very effective dewormers to get rid of them and heartworm preventions controls and treats these parasites as well as heartworms. If you have concerns that your pets may be infected then visit us and we can test your pet and give further advice. If you are worried that you may have contracted any of these diseases please see your physician immediately.

<http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/17/2/167.htm>