

According to an old proverb cats born in May will not be good rodent catchers, and even worse, may bring snakes into the house! Now if there is any truth in this it will, of course, depend on why you have a cat as to whether this is a problem for you! If you live in an area with few rodents or snakes it would seem unlikely to be a problem. But out in the more rural parts one could end up inundated with both!

Logically this proverb has no foundation so we should not have to worry about it. However there is a serious point to think about if your cat is a regular hunter. Cats can catch parasites and, occasionally, other diseases, from contact with, or eating, rodents, rabbits, birds etc.

The most common of these is tapeworms. When the cat eats its prey, the prey may be carrying a tapeworm 'egg'. The worm will then develop inside your pet. These can be easily treated with a tablet, but if you find this idea daunting, there is now a very effective 'spot on' preparation you can obtain from your veterinary surgeon.

Round worms can also be caught in a similar fashion and it is extremely important to treat your pet against these regularly if children come in contact with your pet. An all in one preparation can be prescribed by your veterinary surgeon to keep your pet free of these, as well as fleas and mites.

Other diseases your cat could catch from hunting are virus's and skin diseases.

So whether your cat was born in May or not it is important to make sure it is regularly treated for parasites. Otherwise it may, unintentionally, become a snake in the grass!