The most common zoonoses affecting humans are parasitic zoonoses. There are twenty nine parasitic diseases shared between animals and man and few that are very common are discussed in this paper.

Cystic echinococcosis

Cystic echinococcosis is caused by the metacestode or larva of *Echinococcus granulosus*, the dog tapeworm. Dogs and wild canines (foxes, coyotes, wolves and jackals) are the definitive hosts. *Echinococcus* tapeworms and the intermediate hosts are sheep, swine, goats, equines, camelids and cervids. Carnivores acquire infection by ingestion of infected raw material of the intermediate hosts (mostly viscera). Like the intermediate hosts, man acquires the infection by ingestion of infective eggs. Cystic *Echinococcus* is mainly maintained in the dog-sheep-dog cycle. The infection is transmitted to dogs when they ingest the infected viscera of sheep especially when infected offal is discarded openly in abattoirs and other unapproved places of slaughtering. The eggs are found on the surface of faecal matter of dogs, and they accumulate in the perianal region of dogs. The dog carries the eggs on its tongue and snout to different parts of its body. Direct contact with dogs is the important mode of transmission to humans, as is consumption of vegetables and water contaminated with infected dog faeces. Humans are accidental intermediate hosts and are not able to transmit the disease.

Injection of humans with *E. granulosus* leads to the development of "hydatid cysts." Hydatid cysts are slowly enlarging, mass lesions producing pain and potentially physical obstruction/pressure to surrounding organs. They develop over a period of months to years. Cyst ruptures, "daughter" cysts may be released that spread elsewhere in the body. Most cysts develop in the liver or lungs. Diagnosis of *Echinococcus* infestation in domestic dogs is difficult. Adult *Echinococcus* tapeworms are extremely small (1-6mm in length). Therefore, it is unlikely that individual proglottids (segments) will be discernible. The eggs