

Chagas disease in animals

- The parasite may or may not make animals sick
- There is no treatment or vaccine for animals
- Your pet may become infected if they eat an infected kissing bug
- We recommend that your pets sleep indoors or away from debris where kissing bugs may hide



Kissing bug control

- Eliminate places for kissing bugs to live and hide to reduce the chances of disease in humans and animals.
- Remove debris from around homes and pet housing
- Fix areas where bugs may enter your home.



- No approved pesticide for kissing bugs exists
- Consult an insect control expert to determine which pesticide is best for your environment.

Safely Trapping a Kissing Bug



1. NEVER directly touch or squish a kissing bug



2. Grab a plastic bag



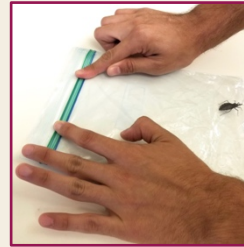
3. Invert the bag onto hand



4. Carefully grab the bug with protected hand



5. Quickly and carefully invert the bag while gently holding the bug



6. Tightly seal the bag with bug inside.



7. Write the date, time, & place where the bug was caught on the bag



8. Carefully clean the area the bug touched with disinfectant and wash hands

Kissing Bugs & Chagas Disease



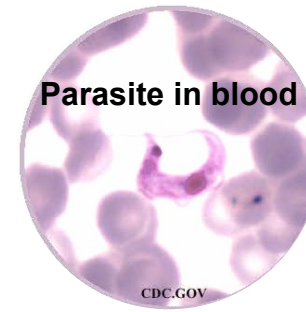
If you find a kissing bug or have other questions please contact us
 (979) 458-4924
kissingbug.tamu.edu



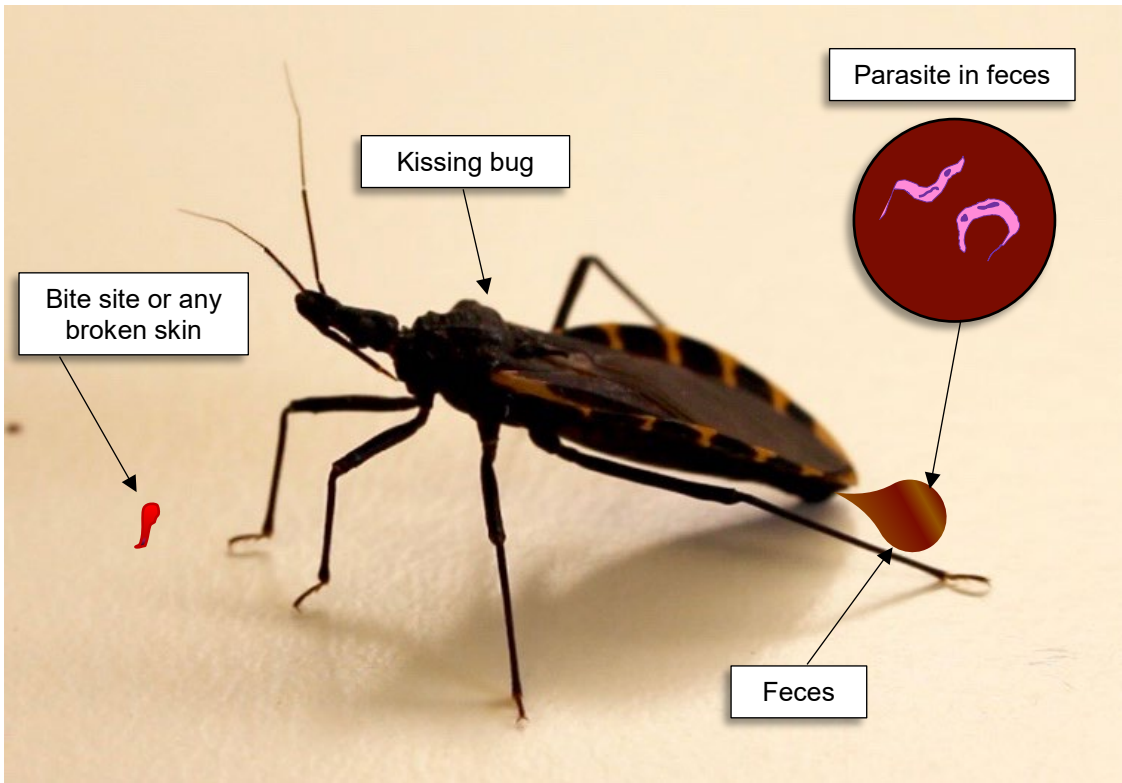
TEXAS A&M
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Kissing Bugs May Cause Chagas Disease

Chagas disease is an infection that affects animals and humans. A kissing bug may deposit a parasite (*Trypanosoma cruzi*) on the skin when it bites to feed on blood. The parasite may enter the body when the bite is scratched. Other forms of transmission exist. Very few treatments exist and no vaccine is available.



Juvenile kissing bug



Kissing bugs usually feed unnoticed at night when the person or animal are sleeping.

RISK

Risk of infection exists in Texas and the Rio Grande Valley due to cases of infected humans, kissing bugs, rats, & dogs.

Symptoms of the Disease

Generally the disease goes unnoticed because it shows few or no symptoms. Symptoms may include:

- Inflammation at bite site
- Fever
- Body pains
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea and vomiting



HEALTH COMPLICATIONS

Without treatment, the disease may cause heart and organ damage

Long term disease may lead to death!

