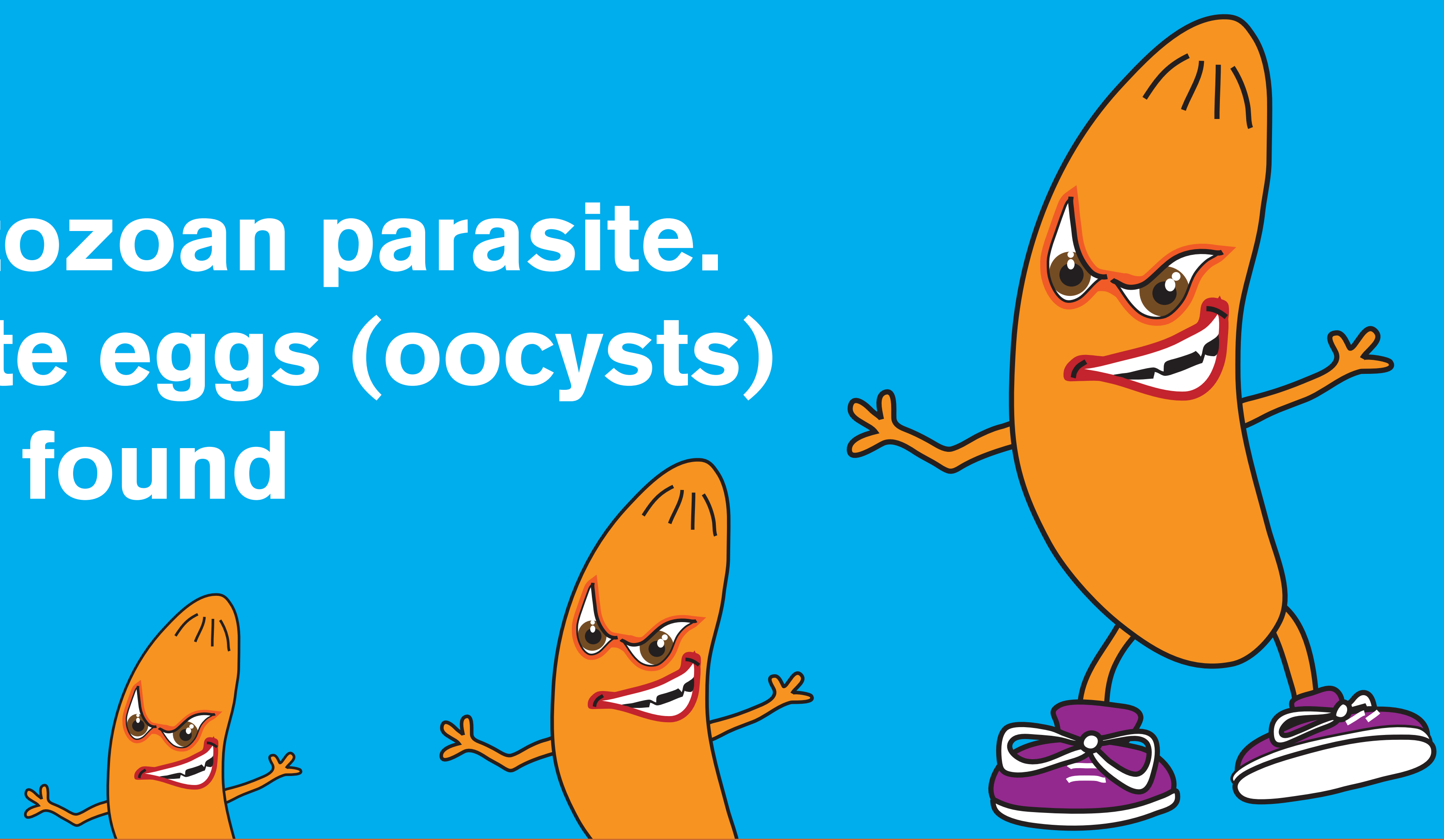
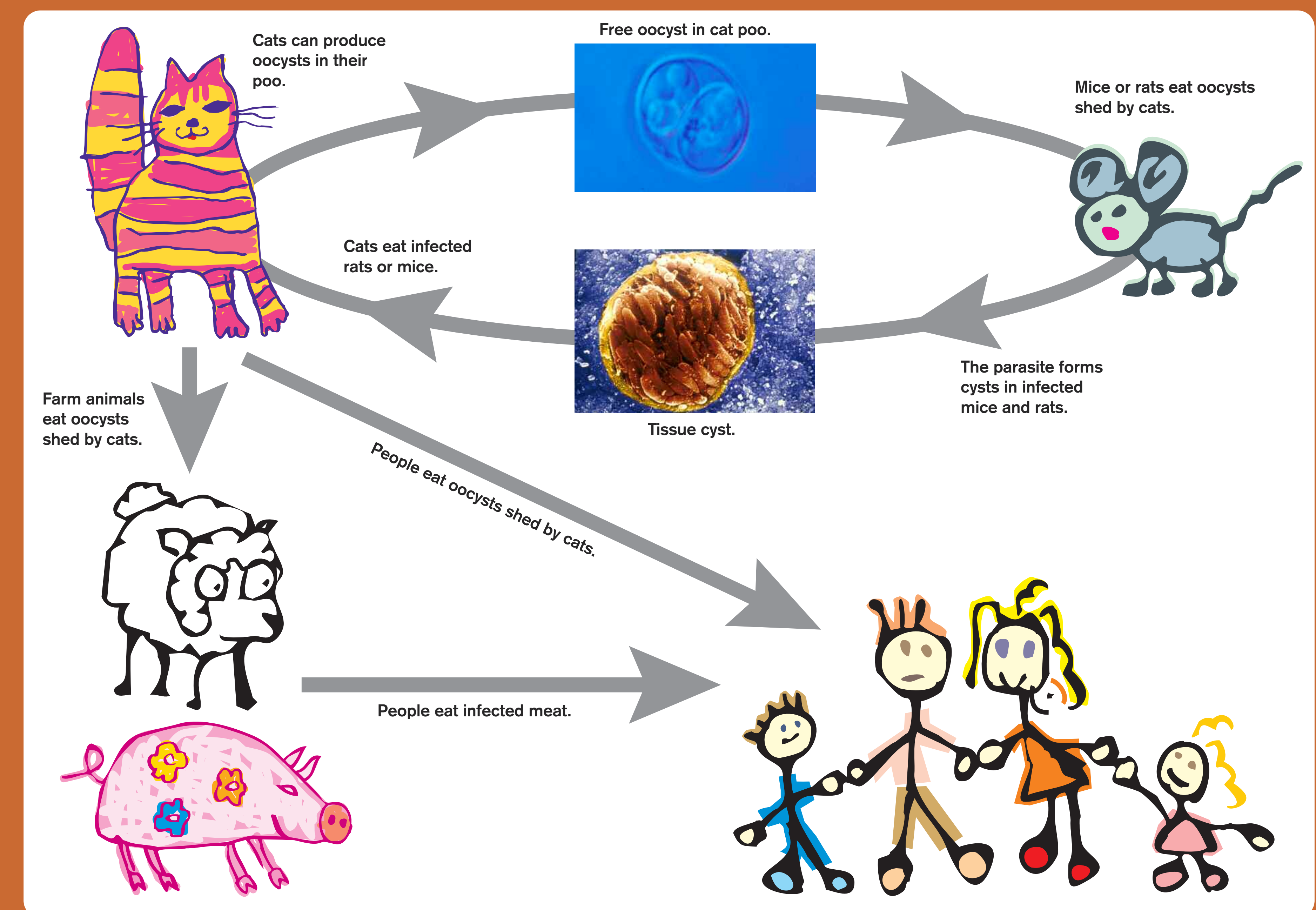


Toxoplasmosis is caused by a tiny protozoan parasite. Infection can occur from eating parasite eggs (oocysts) shed by infected cats or parasite cysts found in the meat of infected animals.



Any warm blooded animal, including humans, can be infected. Worldwide, Toxoplasmosis is a very common human infection, affecting 1 in 3 people although most people don't even know they have it! Problems usually arise only if the immune system isn't working properly (cancer, organ transplant, HIV) or if a woman is first infected during pregnancy, when *Toxoplasma* can damage the baby. The main causes of human infection with *Toxoplasma* are:

- Contact with infected cat poo
- Eating infected undercooked meat
- Infected mother passing the parasite to the offspring in her womb



Lifecycle of the Parasite