

# INFORMATION LETTER

Dear Mr / Mrs

About Houseflies :

## Disease Escherichia Coli

*Escherichia coli*, also known as *E. coli*, is a Gram-negative, facultative aerobic, rod-shaped, coliform bacterium of the genus *Escherichia* that is commonly found in the lower intestine of warm-blooded organisms (endotherms). Most *E. coli* strains are harmless, but some serotypes (EPEC, ETEC etc.) can cause serious food poisoning in their hosts, and are occasionally responsible for food contamination incidents that prompt products recalls. The harmless strains are part of the normal micro biota of the gut, and can benefit their hosts by producing Vitamin K2 (which helps blood to clot) and preventing colonisation of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria, having a mutualistic relationship. *E. coli* is expelled into the environment within fecal matter. The bacterium grows massively in fresh fecal matter under aerobic conditions for 3 days, but its numbers decline slowly afterwards.

## Life cycle

There are four stages in life of a fly : egg, larva or maggot, pupa and adult. Depending on the temperature, it takes from 6 to 42 days for the egg to develop into the adult fly. The length of life is usually 2-3 weeks but in cooler conditions it may be as long as 3 months.

- Feeding habits

- Both male and female flies feed in all kinds of human food, garbage and excreta, including sweet a wide variety of food substances. Because of the structure of their mouthpart, food must be either in liquid state or readily soluble in salivary gland secretions or crop. Liquid food is sucked up and solid food is wetted with saliva, to be dissolved before ingestion. Water is an essential part of a fly's diet and flies evidently need to feed at least two or three times a day.