

Worming in Dogs

All puppies are born infected with roundworms such as *Toxocara canis*. Roundworm infection is ever present in puppies as they can be infected in the womb (transplacentally) and via the mother's milk (transmammary). Therefore it is essential that breeding bitches are routinely wormed (although this will not guarantee no infection in the puppies) furthermore all litters of pups should have a strict worming regime.

Pups should be wormed fortnightly from 2 weeks of age until 8 weeks using a suitable worming preparation not adult worming tablets. Such treatments are available from the practice; the volume of treatment required (at any age) is related to the weight of the pup. Small puppies can be weighed accurately in kitchen scales, larger pups can be brought into the surgery and weighed free of charge although an appointment must be made to ensure access to the scales.

After 8 weeks of age (the age of first vaccination) puppies should be wormed every 4 weeks until 6 months of age; thereafter an adult worming regime of approved worming treatment at a dosage for the up to date weight of the dog is required every 3-4 months. It is true that worms tend to cause much less serious problems in adult dogs in comparison to puppies however recurrent vomiting, diarrhoea and dragging the back end are just some of the common presentations that will require worming treatment.

Worming in Cats

Young kittens are also very likely to be infected with roundworms (such as *Toxocara catii*) as they also become infected from their mother's milk. Our vets can advise you on the best worming treatment for your kitten.

Adult cats are also commonly affected with tapeworm (such as *Taenia taeniaeformis*) as they can be infected by hunting small mammals and birds; however it is important to remember that such parasites (such as *Dipylidium caninum*) can also be transferred via flea bites. Even indoor cats should be wormed at least once a year as contamination on boots etc could bring eggs and larvae into the home environment. Outdoor cats should be wormed every three months. Our vets can advise you on the best worming product for your cat both tablet and spot on treatments are available.

Flea Infestation in Pets PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE

Fleas are just one of the numerous ectoparasites that can affect our pets. Flea infestations are easy to prevent but can be extremely difficult to treat. This is because the major proportion of both the canine flea (*Ctenocephalides canis*) and the feline flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*) life cycles occur off the host and in the environment (i.e **In Your Home**).

It is a well known statistic that for every one adult flea on a pet up to **500** juvenile or larval stage parasites may be present in the home environment.

Therefore if any of your animals have adult fleas or evidence of fleas then all animals in the household as well as in contact animals should be treated with an appropriate treatment. Furthermore the household environment must also be treated with an appropriate household spray. Our vets can advise you on the most appropriate treatment and prevention regime for your pets.

If you require any further information please contact the practice