

Worms

Worms are endoparasites, this means they live inside your pet, often without you even knowing. Your pets can pick up worms from places such as the local park and even your own back garden. There are different types of worms all of which pose different risks to your pet if untreated. Some worms can seriously endanger your pet even resulting in death. Worms can be zoonotic; this means that they can be passed from your pet to you. This can occur through grooming, stroking or from the environment. Most human infections cause minor symptoms; however there are cases that have resulted in blindness and epilepsy.

Types of Worms

Roundworms – These are present in puppies from 2 weeks and kittens from 6 weeks. They can cause lethargy, bloating, diarrhoea and weight loss. This worm is harmful to humans and can cause blindness.

Tapeworms – Fleas transmit a type of tapeworm, if your pet has ever had fleas it may be infected with tapeworm.

Whipworm & Hookworm – whipworms are commonly seen in kennelled dogs and can cause diarrhoea.

Hookworms can cause anaemia and diarrhoea in dogs and skin disease in humans.

Lungworm – Dogs can pick this up by eating infected snails and slugs. It can cause coughing, bleeding and nervous signs. More on this in next month's newsletter.

Treatment

It's easy to treat against worms. We recommend that you worm your pet 4 times a year. Puppies and kittens require worming more frequently, as they are at higher risk. Please ask us for details regarding worming your puppy or kitten.

We stock Milbemax® wormer which will treat against all worms. They are flavoured tablets for cats and chewy tablets for dogs. The number of tablets given is dependent on the weight of your pet so weighing them is a must. If you purchase worming treatment for the whole year it will work out cheaper in the long run. Come and see us today to discuss worming your pet.

New Product Introducing NexGard Spectra®

NexGard Spectra® is the only product that kills fleas, ticks and gastrointestinal worms in a single treatment.

NexGard Spectra® is a beef flavoured tasty chew designed to be delicious to dogs, making parasite control easy. It can be given as a treat or with a meal. Being an oral product you can stroke and cuddle your dog straight away and shampooing and swimming will have no effect on efficacy.



Ticks

With the warmer weather approaching be on the lookout for ticks.

Ticks are generally found in areas of woodland, moors, heathland or grassland including parks and gardens. They like to live in places with deep vegetation and feed from animals and birds. A tick has to feed to be able to grow from one life stage to the next. It climbs up a leaf or stalk then waits for an animal to brush past so they can jump on and feed. The tick's front legs have hooks on them so they can hang on for dear life! The mouth of the tick is a hypostome – like a hollow needle. It sticks into the animal's skin and slowly drinks its blood, like drinking through a straw. It will stay attached for several days then will drop off when it has finished feeding. It will then burrow into the undergrowth to change into the next stage of its life.

There are two main ways that ticks can cause problems.

Firstly they can cause a marked tissue reaction at the attachment site. Secondly, and more importantly, they can carry infectious diseases which may be transmitted to our pets and to us. The most common one is Lyme disease. For dogs, Lyme disease can be debilitating, resulting in joint pain, lethargy and affecting their nervous system. To minimise the risk of Lyme disease in your pet, monitor them daily and carefully remove any ticks with a tick hook and/or use one of the products that rapidly kill or repel ticks. There are a variety of products available including spot on, tablets and collars.

- ✘ DO NOT – try to pull a tick out with your fingers! You may squeeze the contents of the tick back into your pet which is more likely to make him ill.
- ✘ DO NOT – try to burn the tick or cover it with Vaseline or any other creams or chemicals.
- ✓ DO – Clean the area around the bite after you remove the tick

If in doubt come and see our nurses and we can remove it for you.



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