

Worms and Worm Control

Both dogs and cats suffer from two types of worms:

- 🐾 **TAPEWORMS** are long, and flat worms. They break off into rice like segments and can appear stuck to the animals back end or on the surface of its motions. Dogs and cats can get tapeworms from hunting or from just having fleas, as some fleas and animals they might catch such as rats or mice contain immature tapeworms.
- 🐾 **ROUNDWORMS** are spaghetti-like worms which can reach up to 6 inches in length. Some live in the animals bowel, but others can also migrate into the heart and lungs. Their eggs or larvae are passed in the animals motions, but can be too small to see with the naked eye. Adult dogs and cats get the intestinal roundworms from eating raw meat, such as rats, mice and other wildlife. Lung roundworms can be picked up from licking or eating snails, slugs and frogs, even the slime can be infectious. Puppies and kittens can become infested with roundworms from their mother and litter mates. The worms can infect puppies before birth by crossing from the mother's body through the placenta. Both puppies and kittens can also be infected after birth by immature roundworms which come from the mother's milk. By the time they reach their new home, puppies and kittens are likely to have roundworms.

The worms in the bowel damage the animals' intestine and cause stomach upsets, diarrhoea and a bloated belly. Lung worms can also damage lungs causing poor growth, coughing, excessive bleeding and also death. Some worms can be transmitted to humans, with rare, but potentially serious health consequences especially in young children. Regular worming is the only practical method of avoiding this risk.



All puppies and kittens **MUST** be wormed to avoid serious illness. All adult pets should also be wormed at recommended intervals to prevent infestation and transmission to other animals and people.

There are a number of different products to treat worms including “spot ons”, tablets, liquids or powder. Worm preparations bought from pet shops and supermarkets should be avoided however, as they often require multiple doses and are not always 100% effective. We recommend using a worming treatment as well as a flea spot-on for your pet to ensure they are protected against all types of worms. We will need an up to date weight for your animal in order to dispense the correct dosage of worming tablets. We recommend worming your pet every month until the pet is 6 months old and then regularly after that depending on the type of treatment. If your pet is an active hunter, or scavenger, it is recommended you give the wormer more frequently, as re-infestation is more likely.

Regular worming is recommended for all dogs and cats, so please discuss this with us so we can advise you on the best suitable treatments for your pet. Not all wormers kill all types of worms, so it is important to make sure you are using the correct wormer for your pet's age, weight and lifestyle.

Contact Information

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