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 eating any raw flesh or from just having fleas, as some fleas and raw flesh, 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 flesh, such as rats, mice and other wildlife.

The Lung and heart roundworms can be picked up from licking or eating snails, slugs and frogs, even the slime can be infectious. Puppies and kittens get the 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 will have roundworms.

Large numbers of these can cause severe illness and sometimes death. The worms in the bowel damage the animals' intestine and cause stomach upsets, diarrhoea and a bloated belly. In extreme cases they can burst the bowel and cause death. The heart and lung worms can also damage the liver, lungs and heart 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.

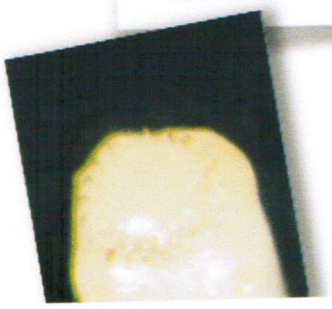
If you plan on traveling abroad with your pet, the law requires that they are wormed to prevent the spread of foreign parasites to the UK, as well as assure the safety of your pet whilst abroad. With regular worming, you can be confident that you are protecting your pet, and other peoples from the effects of infestation.

HOW TO WORM YOUR PET

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

Worm preparations bought from pet shops and supermarkets should be avoided, as they often require multiple doses and are not always 100% effective. We recommend using PRAZITEL worming tablets as well as PRINOVOX spot-on for your animal. These kill all British worms, including lungworms, with the added benefit of killing fleas too

We will need an up to date weight for your animal in order to dispense the correct dosage of worming tablets. PRAZITEL is given every six months in dogs and cats and PRINOVOX given monthly. However, if your pet is an active hunter, or scavenger, it is recommended you give the wormer more frequently, as re-infestation is more likely.



Care and Kindness For Your Pet

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