

Parasites

What is a parasite?

A parasite is an organism that lives at the expense of another living being. In our pets, these usually take the form of intestinal worms (internal parasites) and fleas and ticks (external parasites).

Fleas

How do I control fleas on my pet?

With the advancement of flea control like, Advantix, Frontline Tritak, and Comfortis fleas are no longer the nuisance they once were for you and your pet., Advantix, and FrontlineTritak are a liquid applied down the pet's back which kills all fleas and continues killing them for up to a full month. Comfortis is a pill that is given by mouth every month with a meal. Both products are SAFE for your pets. Do NOT confuse these products with others you find in the pet stores. Those products are insecticides which can potentially harm your pet.

Heartworms

What are Heartworms and how can I prevent my dog/cat from getting them?

Heartworms are parasites that actually live in the dog's heart. There is a blood test available to test for heartworm. Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes, so dogs and cats both are susceptible to this parasite. There is a once a month tablet (for dogs) and a once a month topical (for cats--Revolution) that is used for prevention.

Lice

I think my dog has lice. What can I do?

Lice are small grayish parasites that attach themselves right to the skin and tend to be on the front end of the dog. , Advantix, and Frontline Tritak do kill lice as well, but we recommend repeating the treatment every 2 weeks instead of every month. Lice are very species specific and cannot be transferred to you.

Ticks

How do I prevent my dog from getting ticks?

Seresto or Preventic Tick Collars, and Frontline Tritak or Advantix Liquids are available for tick prevention on dogs. (Frontline can be used on cats). You should know that ticks carry a vast array of diseases including Lymes Disease. There is a vaccination for dogs against Lymes Disease but the best protection is prevention with the above products.

Worms

How can I tell if my dog or cat has worms?

Certain parasites, such as tapeworms, are visible to the naked eye, but others must be detected under the microscope. If you will bring in a stool sample we will be glad to examine it microscopically to see if your pet has worms. But remember that all pets must have an annual exam to be receive a prescription medication.

I saw small worms caught in the hair on my pet's hind legs and tail. What are they?

Small white worms about the size of a grain of rice in length are tapeworm segments. They come from swallowing fleas or from eating mice. There are tablets you can purchase from your veterinarian to eradicate tapeworms. (All pets must have an exam before a prescription medication is administered). There are NO products in the pet stores or grocery stores to kill tapeworms. Also, in order to keep them away, you should practice good flea control.

Pets, Worms, and Children

Dogs and cats are born with worms contracted in the mother's uterus and should first be de-wormed at 3 weeks of age. Puppies and kittens also are infected from their mother's milk and need to be de-wormed after they are weaned. Kittens and pups should be de-wormed at least four times between 7-16 weeks of age and then rechecked at 6 months and 1 year of age.

This intestinal parasite control program is the one recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) due to the incidence of hookworm and roundworm infections in humans. Under normal situations, it is rare for children to become infected with worms from animals but it can and has happened. We strongly recommend good sanitation and parasite control to keep you family's risk at a minimum.