

WORMING YOUR PET

Why do I need to worm my pet?

Parasitic worms are as common as fleas to your pet, especially in puppies and kittens, from half inch long hookworms to 3 feet long flat tapeworms. Infection is often asymptomatic but ignoring possible symptoms and necessary treatments can lead to potentially serious illness. Also worms can be transmitted to people in certain cases.

How are worms caught?

Infection can happen in a variety of ways including transmission through the placenta of a pregnant mother to the unborn foetus, infection through the milk during nursing, and by contact with soil contaminated with faeces from infected animals.

Tapeworms are transmitted through the ingestion of fleas carrying the worm, or infected rodents.

What are the signs of infection?

Minor infections can be of little significance, but nearly all these parasites will induce serious disease if present in overwhelming numbers. Many animals have a degree of immunity, but if stressed the numbers of worms can increase from a small harmless population to a large threatening one.

Clinical signs can vary depending on the type of worm but include gastrointestinal disturbances, coughing, weakness, weight loss, anaemia, and a swollen abdomen in puppies or kittens.

How should I prevent worms?

All animals should be regularly treated for roundworms and tapeworms.

Puppies and kittens should be treated every month from 4 weeks of age until 6 months of age. Thereafter they should be wormed 2 to 4 times a year for the rest of their lives.

What worming medications are available?

- **ASCATEN** (suitable for cats and dogs of all ages) should be given on an empty stomach one hour before a meal. It is effective against hookworms, whipworms, roundworms and tapeworms.
- **POPANTEL** (suitable for dogs > 2weeks) can be given with or without food. It is effective against hookworms, whipworms, roundworms and tapeworms (including Echinococcus spp.). This wormer is often a requirement for export.
- **MILBEMAX** (suitable for cats > 6 weeks) should be given on an empty stomach. It kills both hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms and can prevent heartworm.
- **PROFENDER** (suitable for cats > 8 weeks) comes as a spot-on solution. It can be very difficult to give cats tablets, hence the use of this solution. It kills hookworms, roundworms and tapeworms.
- **PANACUR** (suitable for cats and dogs >2 weeks) comes as a liquid and usually needs to be given as a 3-5 day course. It kills hookworms, whipworms, roundworms, some tapeworms and giardia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONSULT YOUR VET

杜蟲知多少?

為什麼要杜蟲?

寄生蟲在貓狗體內很常出現，尤其是幼犬及幼貓，但任何年齡的貓狗都可受感染。這些寄生蟲由細至一厘米的鉤蟲 (Hookworms) 到長達三尺長的條蟲 (Tapeworms) 不等。寄生蟲亦有機會感染人類，所以有必要為動物定期杜蟲。

寄生蟲從哪裏來?

動物可從很多不同途徑感染到腸胃寄生蟲，包括：經母體在懷孕期間傳染、在哺乳期間、進食受污染的食物及接觸受蟲卵污染的泥土等。動物若吞下老鼠或跳蚤可感染條蟲。由於年輕動物會哺乳，亦較喜歡玩弄泥土及糞便，杜蟲對牠們來說便更為重要。

有什麼病徵?

輕微感染可以沒有任何病徵，但隨着蟲的數目不斷增加，動物會慢慢出現病徵，例如貧血、體重下降、咳嗽、腹瀉、沒精打采及腹部漲大。

如何預防寄生蟲?

我們應定期為所有動物杜蟲。幼犬及幼貓由於較易感染腸胃寄生蟲關係，杜蟲次數要較為瀕密。牠們需要自 4 週大開始每 1 個月杜蟲 1 次，直至牠們 6 個月大，之後每年 2 至 4 次，直至終老。

有什麼杜蟲藥?

Ascaten

- 貓狗合用(適合任何年齡)
- 飯前 1 小時空肚服，可杜除鉤蟲、鞭蟲、蛔蟲及條蟲

Popantel

- 狗用(適合 2 個月大或以上)
- 飯前飯後服均可
- 有效杜除鉤蟲、鞭蟲、蛔蟲、條蟲(包括 Echinococcus spp. 棘球蚴)
- 符合大部份出入境要求之杜蟲藥

Milbemax

- 貓用(適合 6 星期大或以上)
- 空肚服
- 有效杜除鉤蟲、蛔蟲、條蟲及預防心絲蟲

Profender

- 貓用(適合 8 星期大或以上)
- 外用(滴頸背) 適用於難以餵飼口服藥之貓隻
- 有效杜除鉤蟲、蛔蟲及條蟲

Panacur

- 貓狗合用((適合 2 星期大或以上)
- 口服藥水，一般療程約 3-5 日
- 有效杜除鉤蟲、鞭蟲、蛔蟲、部份條蟲及梨形蟲

欲知道更多有關詳情，可請教你的獸醫