



Don't Let Parasites Worm Their Way Into Your Pets

Treating & Preventing Worms...

Believe it or not, most pets have had worms at one time or another. Many are born with worms that are transmitted from their mother. Even the most clean, well-kept pet can have parasites take up residence in their stomach and intestines, leading to vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss and more. What should you do if your pet shows signs of worms, and how can you prevent them? Check out these tips...

Treat

Symptoms of worms can vary, but most all parasite invasion includes the classic signs of vomiting diarrhea, weight loss, lethargy and constant hunger.



Tapeworms: These long, flat worms have numerous segments containing tapeworm eggs. Segments look like grains of rice.

Roundworms: Visible to the naked eye, roundworms resemble small pieces of spaghetti.

Hookworms: These worms attach to the intestinal wall and suck blood and other nutrients from their hosts, leading to severe blood loss and diarrhea in infected pets.



How Your Vet Can Help - With fecal testing, most GI parasites can be detected, and deworming can help ensure the good riddance of worms. Deworming medications are safe when used properly and come in a variety of formulations, including pills, chewable tablets, liquid medications and topical products that are applied to the skin between the shoulder blades.

Prevent

To help prevent infection from worms in your pets and your family, follow these preventative tips:



Use a monthly heartworm preventative that also targets GI parasites.

Pick up your dog's

"doodie" promptly.

Wear gloves when cleaning up after your dog and wash hands afterwards.

Clean your cat's litterbox frequently.

Have children wash their hands after playing outside and before eating.



Schedule checkups for your pet with his vet, and bring a stool sample for parasite testing.

Make sure your animals always have safe, clean drinking water.