

WORMS

FACTS

WORMS ARE PARASITES THAT LIVE INSIDE DOGS AND CATS, USUALLY IN THEIR INTESTINAL TRACTS. THERE IS A RANGE OF DIFFERENT SPECIES OF WORMS WHICH MAY INFECT DOGS AND CATS IN THE UK. DOGS AND CATS WITH WORMS CAN DEVELOP DIARRHOEA, LOSE WEIGHT AND DEVELOP SWOLLEN ABDOMENS. **THE MOST COMMONLY SEEN WORMS ARE ROUNDWORMS AND TAPEWORMS.**

ROUNDWORMS

THESE WORMS LOOK LIKE STRINGS OF SPAGHETTI OR ELASTIC BANDS. ROUNDWORMS INFECT MANY PUPPIES AND KITTENS FROM BIRTH BECAUSE THE WORM LARVAE CAN TRANSMIT ACROSS THE PLACENTA FROM THE MOTHER; THEY CAN ALSO BE TRANSMITTED VIA THE MILK DURING SUCKLING. ROUNDWORMS ARE ALSO PICKED UP FROM THE ENVIRONMENT (THIS IS WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO PICK UP YOUR DOG'S FAECES) OR FROM HUNTING, SCAVENGING AND EATING RAW MEAT. ROUNDWORMS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO CONTROL AS THEY ARE A ZONOSIS—THIS MEANS THEY CAN PASS TO HUMANS. HUMAN INFESTATION WITH ROUNDWORMS CAN BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY IN YOUNG CHILDREN WHEN IT CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS.

TAPEWORMS

ANIMALS WITH TAPEWORM INFESTATIONS WILL PASS WORM SEGMENTS IN THEIR FAECES. TAPEWORM SEGMENTS LOOK LIKE FLATTENED GRAINS OF RICE AND MAY WRIGGLE AND MOVE. UNLIKE ROUNDWORMS, TAPEWORMS CAN'T BE PASSED DIRECTLY FROM ONE CAT OR DOG TO ANOTHER, BUT HAVE TO DEVELOP IN ANOTHER ANIMAL FIRST (THE INTERMEDIATE HOST). THE INTERMEDIATE HOST IS USUALLY THE FLEA, SO IF YOU SEE TAPEWORM SEGMENTS COMING FROM YOUR PET THEN YOU MUST TREAT FOR FLEAS AS WELL AS FOR WORMS.

LUNGWORM (DOGS ONLY) - THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF LUNGWORM ASSOCIATED WITH FOXES THAT DOGS MAY PICK UP THROUGH EATING INFECTED SNAILS OR SLUGS. LUNGWORM CAN CAUSE COUGHING, BLEEDING AND NERVOUS SIGNS.

WHIPWORM AND HOOKWORM (DOGS) - WHIPWORMS ARE SEEN MORE COMMONLY IN KENNELLED DOGS AND CAN CAUSE DIARRHOEA. HOOKWORMS CAN CAUSE ANAEMIA (LEADING TO LETHARGY AND BREATHLESSNESS) AND DIARRHOEA IN DOGS.

HOOKWORM (CATS) - ACQUIRED FROM CONTAMINATED SOIL, IT CAN CAUSE DIARRHOEA IN CATS AND SKIN DISEASE IN HUMANS.

IT IS PRETTY SAFE TO SAY THAT AT SOME STAGE IN THEIR LIVES ALL DOGS AND CATS WILL GET A WORM INFESTATION. THIS IS WHY OUR PETS MUST BE TREATED FOR WORMS ON A REGULAR BASIS. WORMING YOUR PET WILL GET RID OF ANY WORMS WHICH MAY BE PRESENT AT THE TIME, BUT IT WILL NOT PREVENT RE-INFESTATION. BECAUSE OF THE EASE WITH WHICH DOGS AND CATS CAN BECOME INFECTED, WE RECOMMEND ROUTINE WORMING EVERY 1-3 MONTHS.

WHEN TO WORM AND WHAT TO USE:

1. PUPPIES AND KITTENS UP TO 6 MONTHS

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO WORM PUPPIES AND KITTENS REGULARLY DURING THE FIRST 6 MONTHS TO COMBAT ROUNDWORMS. MOST PUPPIES AND KITTENS WILL HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THESE WORMS DURING PREGNANCY AND SUCKLING. PUPPIES AND KITTENS NEED WORMING AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH UNTIL 6 MONTHS OLD. THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO WORM PUPPIES AND KITTENS; WE WILL USUALLY USE A SPOT-ON TREATMENT WHICH KILLS THE ROUNDWORMS AS WELL AS CONTROLLING FLEAS AND MITE PROBLEMS. THE TREATMENT IS APPLIED ONCE A MONTH.

2. ADULT DOGS

MOST DOGS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO SCAVENGE, ARE REGULARLY EXPOSED TO BOTH ROUNDWORMS AND TAPEWORMS WHEN OUT ON WALKS. THE BEST ROUTINE FOR WORMING ADULT DOGS IS TO USE A COMBINED WORMER AGAINST ROUNDWORMS AND TAPEWORMS (& LUNGWORM) EVERY 3 MONTHS TO ENSURE ANY WORMS PICKED UP ARE QUICKLY ELIMINATED. WE USUALLY USE A TABLET WHICH IS ACTIVE AGAINST ALL WORMS.

3. ADULT CATS

ANY OUTDOOR CAT IS LIKELY TO HUNT BIRDS OR MICE AT SOME STAGE AND AS SUCH WILL BE EXPOSED TO WORMS. THE BEST ROUTINE FOR WORMING ADULT CATS IS TO USE A COMBINED WORMER AGAINST ROUNDWORMS AND TAPEWORMS EVERY 3 MONTHS TO ENSURE ANY WORMS PICKED UP ARE QUICKLY ELIMINATED. WE CAN USE A TABLET WHICH IS ACTIVE AGAINST ALL WORMS. MANY OWNERS FIND TABLETS DIFFICULT TO ADMINISTER TO THEIR CAT AND SO WILL USE SPOT-ON PREPARATIONS WHICH ARE APPLIED ONTO THE SKIN ON THE BACK OF THE NECK.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE REGARDING PLANNING A WORMING REGIME
FOR YOUR PET PLEASE CALL OUR SMALL ANIMAL TEAM ON: 01572 722646
VISIT www.oakhamvethospital.co.uk FOR DETAILS OF OUR OPENING HOURS.**

