



FACT SHEET

Internal Parasites – Facts

- The common intestinal worms of dogs and cats are *roundworm*, *hookworm*, *whipworm* and *tapeworm*. Each of these worms lays literally millions of eggs which infected animals pass out in their droppings.
- Round-, hook- and whipworms are picked up by animals cleaning themselves after walking on soil contaminated with infected dog droppings.
- These worm eggs can stay alive in moist ground for up to one year before infecting your pet.
- Roundworm is the most common worm in puppies and kittens. Pups are usually infected before birth but can also pick up roundworms through their mothers' milk in the first few months of life.
- The only way for pets to become infected with tapeworm is by digesting creatures that have a tapeworm cyst inside them. The most common such creatures are fleas.
- Dogs that eat raw offal (e.g. liver, lungs, kidney) not purchased from a butcher can become infected with the *Hydatid* tapeworm. Mainly affecting farm dogs, this tapeworm is a potential health risk for humans.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Treat puppies and kittens for roundworm and hookworm with an 'all-wormer' every two weeks from two to 12 weeks of age, then every month until they're six months old.
- Treat adult dogs and cats for round-, hook-, whip- and tapeworm with an all-wormer every three months in younger or well-traveled pets, or every six months for older, sedentary pets who do not leave the backyard.
- Dogs at risk of developing *Hydatid* tapeworm should be treated every six weeks with **Droncit®** or other tapeworm killer.