



THE IMPORTANCE OF DEWORMING

ROUNDWORM (*Toxocara canis*)

Pups/kittens get this worm from their mother while in the uterus and through her milk after birth. Infected pups release thousands of eggs in their stool which need about two weeks in the soil after defaecation to be infective to humans.

In children, two syndromes exist – one where the larvae of the worm migrate through the eye to cause inflammation and possibly blindness and another where the worms migrate through the internal organs causing signs like chronic abdominal pain, fever and wheezing.

Children become infected when they swallow eggs with soil that is contaminated with animal faeces, eg toddlers who eat dirt from the backyard, public parks, sandboxes and flower and/or vegetable gardens where animals have toileted.

NOTE: Children cannot be infected only from handling the puppy/kitten itself. The major risk factor for children is the birth of a litter or puppies or kittens in the household.

HOOKWORMS (*Ancylostoma braziliense* & *Ancylostoma caninum*)

Pups/kittens are infected by larvae that are swallowed in the milk from the mother. These worms suck blood from the intestinal wall so pups/kittens can show no signs when infected or show diarrhoea, ill thrift and even die from anaemia of blood loss before reaching two weeks of age.

Larvae hatch in the environment after being deposited on the ground in animal faeces. People are infected when the larvae then migrate through the skin which has come in contact with the soil, most commonly the feet.

In people, 'cutaneous larval migrans' forms when worms lost in a strange host migrate through the skin indefinitely causing hives and itching. An enteritis can also be seen where abdominal pain and blood in the stool is most common.

TAPEWORMS

Two main types:

- *Dipylidium caninum* – when children ingest fleas from animals we can see maggot-like worms in their nappies – no harm to the children, but produces symptoms in parents changing the nappy!!
- Hydatid tapeworms – animals fed raw sheep, pig, cattle and kangaroo meat and raw offal become infected. The eggs are passed in the animals faeces and are then directly infective to humans. The eggs adhere to the animal's coat, paws, mouth and anus.
In people, the worms forms cysts in the muscles, brain and lungs – this can be very serious and even life threatening.

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM INFECTION

- Practice good hygiene – wash hands after handling animals and especially before eating or putting your hands in your mouth
- Make potentially contaminated environments off limits to children (eg veggie gardens and compost heaps) and cover up sandpits when not in use.

ELIMINATE PARASITES FROM YOUR PETS

- Treat pups/kittens with Drontal Allwormer every two weeks from birth to 14 weeks of age; then every month until 6 months; then every 3 months for life.
- If there are children in the household or in contact with the pets, the best recommendation is to prevent human infestation with Drontal Allwormer MONTHLY FOR LIFE.
- Treat newly acquired animals with Drontal Allwormer immediately, again in two weeks, then as recommended above.
- Treat bitches/queens with Drontal Allwormer before mating, at two weeks before the birth of the litter, and then at the same times as the pups/kittens.

