



June 2011



Vets Love Pets!

Dr. Tammy Wilde, Dr. Eva Braze,
Dr. Kristina Hughes, Dr. Tyler Hughes,
Dr. Shilton Cheriaparambil and
Dr. Koshy Palathumthalackel

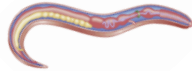


External Parasites

Let's face it, parasites are an annoying, unfortunate part of our pets lives. Sadly, the heat and humidity of the coming summer months present an optimal environment for these creatures to multiply. The good news is that increasing your knowledge of these critters can help you defeat and prevent them from finding a home on your pet and in your living room. For more information please Call (780) 458 6051 to speak with any member of our healthcare team.

What is a Parasite?

par·a·site [par-uh-sahyt]



An organism that lives on or in an organism of another species, known as the host, from the body of which it obtains nutrients. This usually happens at the expense of the host.

There are two basic types of parasites: *internal* parasites and *external* parasites. Internal parasites cause harm from within your pet. They can steal valuable nutrients from your pet and cause infections. External parasites live on the body and lead to an infestation. These parasites live off of their host by consuming their flesh and blood.



Are parasites dangerous to humans?

Diseases transmitted from animals to humans are called zoonotic diseases. Many parasites are harmful to humans; however, our pets are affected by a far greater variety. Roundworm eggs can lead to blindness, nervous system damage, or damage to internal organs. Hookworms can cause skin lesions, and mites can cause an itchy, red rash. There are many others as well. Your veterinarian can provide you with recommendations to treat or control the parasites that your family and pets are exposed to.

Extended Hours

As part of our commitment to better serving our customers, we have extended our hospital hours.

New Hospital Hours

Monday 8:00-9:00
Tuesday 8:30-9:00
Wednesday 8:00-9:00
Thursday 8:00-9:00
Friday 8:00-9:00
Saturday 9:00-4:00
Sunday/Holidays
Closed



What can I do to prevent these parasites from infecting my family?

Medication such as Revolution, Sentinel, Milbemax, and Interceptor, can be prescribed by your veterinarian. Typically, these medications are given once every 30 days. They come in the form of a flavored tablet, usually taken like a treat, or a vial of liquid that is administered by parting the fur between the shoulder blades of your pet and squeezing it onto the skin. Remember: Prevention is much easier than treatment.

1005 Tudor Glen Place St. Albert, AB T8N 3V4

Ph: (780) 458-6051 Fax: (780) 458-0869

www.tudorglenvethospital.ca

Sarcoptic Mange

Scabies is a broad term to describe skin disease. Microscopic mites burrow under the skin and lay their eggs causing severe itching, small red bumps, hair loss, and crusty scabs. Unfortunately, these parasites can be passed onto humans. Scabies are so tiny that they are almost impossible to see with the naked eye. For diagnostic purposes your veterinarian may require a skin scraping.

Ear Mites

Ear mites are highly contagious and pass easily from pet to pet through direct contact. An ear of a pet with ear mites will look like it has finely ground coffee beans spilling out of it, as these gross mites live on the ear's surface. They cause an inflammation of the outer ear, leading to infections, head shaking, pawing, odor and discharge. The good news is that they can easily be treated by your veterinarian.

Lice

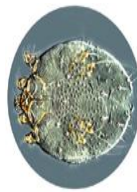
There are two kinds of lice, sucking and biting. Both of these pesky parasites cause problems. Unlike fleas who spend one of their life cycles on a host, lice spend their entire lives on their host. What this means is that treatment is oftentimes more difficult and requires repeat treatments to kill each generation of lice. Dog and cat lice will not infest humans, but they may bite you. If you find one, squish it and call your veterinarian.

Fleas

If your pet is scratching, there is a possibility that it may have fleas. These small, wingless, creatures live just about anywhere there are birds and mammals. They survive by piercing and sucking the blood of their host. Fleas have four life stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Each of these life cycles lasts approximately 28 days in optimal conditions. Pet owners most commonly face the fight against adult fleas, as it is in this stage of life that they spend all of their time on a host. Once they make their home on your pet, they are there permanently. Fleas will **not** choose a host, migrate back into their environment, and then choose a new host.

Fleas cause irritation and itching. Left untreated issues such as dermatitis and a variety of allergic reactions can occur. When treating fleas, it is also important to treat their environment to prevent another infestation from occurring.

Sarcoptic Mange



Female Tick



Male Tick



Ear Mite



Lice



Flea



Heartworm



Ticks

Ticks live in bushes and tall grass. In their adult life cycle, they crawl up to a location where they can patiently wait to attach to a host. Once attached, siphon-like mouthparts pierce the skin of the host so they can feed on its blood. Pets and people are at risk for tick infestation. A particular concern is Lyme Disease, caused by a bacteria like organism that is transferred into the blood of the tick's victim. These parasites are most likely to affect you and your pet in late Spring and early Summer.



Heartworms

It is important to treat heartworms for many reasons. First of all, they can be passed to humans. Secondly, left untreated, they can lead to the death of your pet. This common parasite lives in the right side of an animal's heart. Mosquitoes feed on infected animals and ingest the larvae. When that mosquito bites another animal, it transmits the heartworm larvae. These parasites can live up to six years.

Symptoms are not always present initially, so it is important to discuss prevention of heartworms with your veterinarian.