



Vets Love Pets!



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DE-WORMING

As part of our professional commitment to you, we would like to highlight a key health issue among pets - parasites. Parasites are everywhere. Not only are they damaging to the health of your pets, but they can also be transmitted to humans as well. Routine de-worming will insure that you are preventing these parasites from becoming detrimental your health and the health of your family members. Remember, prevention is always easier than treatment!

How are people infected with animal parasites?

People, especially children, can be exposed to animal parasites when they work or play in areas contaminated with parasite eggs – contaminated soil in sandboxes or the garden. Children are often less careful about hygiene, more likely to put dirty hands in their mouth and often play in dirt, grass or sand. Parasite eggs cannot be seen by the naked eye, but are present anywhere stools from an infected animal are found – cats, dogs and some wild animals. Sometimes fruit and vegetables, such as strawberries and carrots, growing close to the ground can also be contaminated. If not carefully washed, they can also be a source of human infection.

DID YOU KNOW...

Roundworms can lay up to 200,000 eggs per day. If unprotected, your pet can become infected with parasites such as these, by coming into contact with an area contaminated by another animal's feces. The health risks to both indoor and outdoor pets can be severe, and even fatal. Unfortunately, symptoms may not be apparent until it's too late.



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Hookworms do not need a 'host' to be transmitted, although rodents may play a role in the transmission of this parasite. Hookworm eggs are passed in the host's feces. Infection can occur via ingestion (swallowing) or skin penetration (commonly absorbed through the feet). Hookworms move around constantly as they feed, leaving many bleeding wounds. Severe hookworm infection produces bloody mucus-laden diarrhea, can impair growth and physical ability, cause anemia, weakness, weight loss, dermatitis and poor hair coat. Puppies and kittens are affected more severely since they are less able to cope with depleted iron reserves.



Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal condition caused by parasitic worms that live in the arteries of the lungs, and in the right side of the heart of dogs and cats (and in rare instances, humans). These parasites are transmitted by mosquitoes. When a mosquito carrying infective heartworm larvae bites another animal, the infection is transmitted. If left untreated, heartworms are almost always fatal.



Roundworms are transmitted through a pet's feces. The egg develops in an outdoor environment before it becomes able to infect a new 'host'. Sometimes there are no visible symptoms, and in more severe cases, animals may exhibit signs of anemia, constipation, weight loss, bulging abdomens, hair coats that lack luster and shine, vomiting and diarrhea. If the roundworms have infested the lungs, respiratory problems such as coughing and pneumonia may also be present. Severe infections can damage the liver, lungs and brain.



Whipworms are common in dogs. They become infected by ingesting the whipworm eggs. Ingestion can happen in a variety of ways. A dog may walk over the eggs and lick their paws. As well, egg infested soil may infect their toys, food dishes, and water dishes. The whipworms burrow their mouths into your pet's intestinal wall to feed on their blood. Small amounts of whipworms show no visible signs, however larger numbers can result in inflammation of the intestinal wall and sometimes hemorrhaging and anemia can result. Weight loss, diarrhea and fresh blood in the feces are also signs of heavy infestation.



For pets to become infected with **tapeworm**, they must swallow a flea that contains tapeworm eggs. This usually happens when your pet chews or licks its skin as a flea bites and the flea is then swallowed. As the flea is digested within the intestine, the tapeworm hatches and attaches itself to the intestinal lining. Most tapeworm infestations go totally unnoticed and we rarely ever know unless we find a worm on the couch or see them in feces. Although tapeworms are not highly harmful to your pet, they will cause them some discomfort. You may hear a rumbling tummy (where the animal has increased intestinal movement), cramping and sometimes gas.



Complimentary Dental Consultations

Due to the success of our recent dental month campaign, Tudor Glen Veterinary Hospital is once again pleased to offer complimentary dental consultations. The consultation will include an oral exam, a demonstration on how to brush your pet's teeth, a discussion on nutrition and a bag of dental food. We do not charge for these consultations - it's our way of promoting pet dental awareness. To book a complimentary consultation, please talk to one of our veterinary health care team at: **458-6051**.

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