

Intestinal Parasites

Whipworms

Clinical Signs:

- Whipworms attach to the intestinal wall and feed on blood.
- Diarrhea.
- Weight loss.
- Poor coat quality.
- Poop may contain blood.
- Anemia.
- Whipworms are not visible to the naked eye.

Where do they come from?

- By ingesting the whipworm egg.
- They can live in the environment for years. Hard to get rid of.
- By sniffing the ground and inhaling eggs.

Testing:

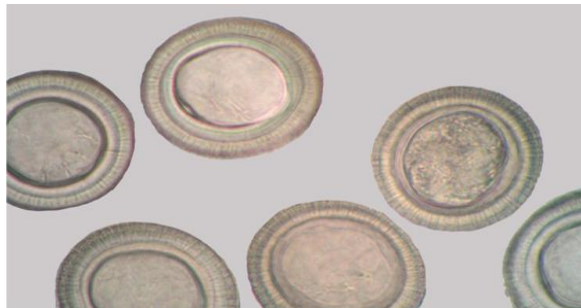
- Fecal sample ran in the veterinary hospital.

Treatment:

- Deworming and retesting another fecal sample in 3 – 4 weeks.
- Monthly oral Heartworm prevention also deworms at the same time.
- Clean up poop out of the yard.
- Wash pet bedding in hot water or replace it. Eggs are hardy and impossible to destroy.

Zoonotic Potential:

- Yes, humans can catch them by ingesting contaminated poop.
- If you ingest a contaminated flea you will get tapeworms.
- Whipworm eggs are hardy and hard to get rid of.
- Practice good hygiene! Wash your hands after handling poop or playing with pets.
- Contact a human physician if you or your family become infected.
- Sandboxes can become litterboxes. Use with caution.
- Hookworms can penetrate skin, so wear shoes when around an infected pet or yard. They like sandy beaches, moist soil and can cause cutaneous larva migrans or “creeping eruption”.



(Tapeworm eggs viewed under a microscope)



(Whipworm eggs viewed under a microscope)

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Roundworm

Clinical Signs:

- Diarrhea, vomiting, enlarged abdomen in puppies and kittens.
- Gas.
- Diarrhea in adult dogs and cats.
- Roundworms look like “cooked spaghetti noodles” in poop.
- Visually seeing worms in the poop.

Where do they come from?

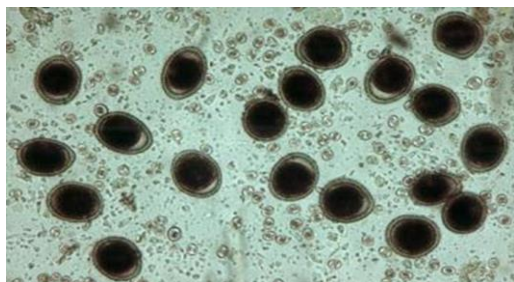
- From mother to puppy/kitten in the womb or when nursing.
- By ingesting the roundworm egg.
- By sniffing the ground and inhaling eggs.

Testing:

- Fecal sample ran in the veterinary hospital.

Treatment:

- Deworming and then retesting a fecal sample in 3 to 4 weeks.
- Clean up all poop out of the yard. Do not let your pet eat poop.
- Monthly oral heartworm prevention also deworms at the same time.
- Wash pet bedding in hot water.



(Roundworm egg viewed under a microscope)

Tapeworm

Clinical signs:

- Tapeworm segments can be seen on poop. Looks like “rice”.
- Pets may scoot their rear end on the ground.
- Segments maybe found around the tail area of the pet.
- Dried segments can also be found on bedding material.

Where do they come from?

- From fleas. Fleas become infected when they ingest the tapeworm embryo. This is why, flea prevention is so important.

Testing:

- A fecal sample ran in the veterinary hospital.
- Visually seeing the segments on the tail area of the pet.

Treatment:

- Deworming and then retesting another fecal sample in 3 to 4 weeks.
- Treat all pets and the house for fleas.
- Vacuum all floors, curtains and couches. Throw the vacuum bag out. Fleas can crawl out of vacuums.
- Wash all pet bedding in hot water.
- Clean up all poop out of the yard.
- Interceptor the monthly oral heartworm prevention deworms at the same time.

Hookworm

Clinical signs:

- Hookworms attach to the intestinal wall and feed on blood. Causing pale gums.
- Watery diarrhea or black and tarry.
- Distended abdomen and a poor coat quality.
- Not hungry.
- Hookworms are not visible to the naked eye.
- Anemia.

Where do they come from?

- From mother to puppy/kitten in the womb or when nursing.
- Ingesting the hookworm.
- They can penetrate the skin.

Testing:

- Fecal sample ran at the veterinary hospital.

Treatment:

- Deworming and retesting another fecal sample in 3 to 4 weeks.
- Clean up all poop matter out of the yard.
- Monthly oral heartworm prevention also deworms at the same time.
- Wash pet bedding in hot water.



(Hookworm eggs viewed under a microscope)

