

In This Issue: Internal Parasites!- Hookworm, Tapeworm, Roundworm Oh My!
Featuring a special appearance by Heartworm!



No, they are not the latest pictures of alien life...they can be found right here on earth, perhaps in your pet!



Worms are a fact of life when you own a cat or dog. Pets of all ages are at risk of picking up worms. Puppies are born with intestinal worms, and kittens are often infected early in life from their mother's milk, and they don't outgrow the risk. Cats and dogs continue to be exposed to worms, picking them up by from worms shed by other pets, from fleas, and from eating infected wildlife.



Worms live in the intestines of animals and are expelled in the stool. If left untreated in pets, homes and yards can become contaminated from worm eggs that are passed in animal feces and hatch in the soil. If your animal has worms, get it treated and clean up after your pet promptly. Touching the stool or contaminated soil then touching the mouth or handling food are common routes of transmission of worms to humans. Even though you can't see the parasite, pets infected with worms are at risk of health problems and you may be too. That is because they are Zoonotic, which means they can be transmitted between animals and people.

Some people are more likely than others to get zoonoses: the elderly, pregnant women, infants and children less than 5 years old and those that are immune-suppressed from cancer treatments, organ transplants or living with Lupus or AIDS.

Children are at risk for acquiring Zoonotic diseases if they walk barefoot or play in the dirt where an infected dog has defecated or on the floor where the dog may have tracked in dirt or feces. It is estimated that between 5 and 20 percent of children have been infected by dog roundworm at some time in their lives. Just one roundworm larva has been know to damage the retina of the eye and cause blindness.



Prevention and early treatment are the best defenses against worms. The CDC (Canadian Center for Disease Control) has set guidelines for prevention...ask Dr Taylor and his staff what's best for your pet.

CDC Guidelines for Deworming



Cats and kittens

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| From 3 weeks to 3 months- | Deworm every 2 weeks |
| From 3 months to 6 months – | Deworm once a month |
| From 6 months and older – | Deworm 4 times a year |



Dogs and Puppies

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| From 2 weeks to 3 months- | Deworm every 2 weeks |
| From 3 months to 6 months – | Deworm once a month |
| From 6 months and older – | Deworm 4 times a year |

See www.cdc.gov/healthypets for more information and fun stuff for kids!

Simple and inexpensive products like Interceptor (eliminates roundworm, hookworm, whipworm as well as heartworm) prevent problems your pets and your family, and products like Drontal and Cestex can eliminate an existing condition. Talk to the staff and Dr Taylor to asses your family's risk and put in place your Deworming protocol.



Now appearing: Heartworm

Heartworm is an insidious disease that has spread to virtually all parts of the US and many parts of Canada since the early 1970s. It is spread only by mosquitoes; thus, areas heavily populated by these insects tend to have a greater incidence of Heartworm disease.

Heartworm can strike both dogs and cats, although it is much more commonly seen in dogs. As its name implies, Heartworm lives in the blood of a dog's or cat's heart and adjacent blood vessels. When a mosquito "bites" an infected pet, it sucks out blood containing the microfilariae. When the mosquito bites another pet, the infective larvae are transmitted.



A small amount of blood is all that's necessary for a preliminary Heartworm screening test that is very accurate in detecting the presence of Heartworm. This test is recommended every year for pets regularly exposed to Heartworm and prior to those starting prevention medication.

While here in BC we do not have a rampant heartworm problem, should you travel to or get a dog from the United States, Eastern Canada, the Okanogan or Mexico, you need to test and prevent Heartworm. Also note the influx of rescued animals from Hurricane Katrina come from an area heavily riddled with heartworm, and many of the poor souls have tested positive, introducing positive dogs to BC population. Prevention is easy and comes in pill or topical form and can also prevent fleas and internal parasites.

Ask Dr. Taylor or the staff if your pet is at risk and what will work best for you.

*** \$5.00 dollars off your annual testing with the mention of this article!**

Coming in June



Our annual pet photo contest!. Please have ready to submit your picture with your name, your pets name and the category you are entering in, remembering that the photo won't be returned to you, by June. The contest will close June 24th and the winner announced June 30th 2006.

The categories are:

Cutest Puppy

Cutest Kitten

Pet-look-a-like- do you look like you companion animal?

Animal antics- show us the zaniest, funniest or craziest thing your pet does

* Great prizes to be won...all entered photos will be on display in the clinic!