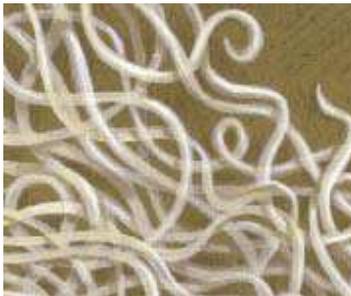


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Animal Hospital & Wellness Center

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Roundworms



This is the most common intestinal parasite of dogs and cats. Your pet can become infected in several different ways. They may become come infected from their mother, from contaminated water or soil or from eating other small mammals that are infected. Roundworm infections can cause weight loss, dull hair coat and a potbellied appearance. In severe infections the worms may migrate to the lungs and cause a cough. This parasite is identified by having your pets stool examined. Roundworms are considered a zoonotic disease. Humans become infected by ingesting the eggs or larva of roundworms. It is estimated that 10,000 people are infected with roundworms each year. While this may go unnoticed in some people, the larva migrate to the liver, heart, lungs, brain and the eye resulting in blindness in others.

Hookworms



Hookworms are a common intestinal parasite of dogs and cats. Your pet can become infected with hookworms from their mother or from the environment.

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Hookworms are different from other parasites in that they actively attach to the intestinal lining and feed on blood. This parasite can be very serious in young puppies especially if there is a heavy infection. The worms can cause enough blood loss to lead to anemia and the need of a blood transfusion. In older adult dogs the signs of hookworms can also include diarrhea and weight loss. As with other intestinal parasites a stool sample is needed to test for hookworms. Hookworms are also a zoonotic disease. In humans hookworm larva will penetrate the skin and cause skin irritations. This condition is usually easily treated.

Whipworms

Whipworms are an intestinal parasite of dogs and cats. Your pet can become infected by ingesting eggs from the soil or substances that have been in contact with feces from an infected animal. Pets that have only a few worms may not exhibit any signs of infection. If the infection is more severe it can cause bloody diarrhea and can lead to serious disease and possibly death. Having your pets stool examined is the only way to check for this parasite.

Tapeworms

Tapeworms are a very common parasite in dogs and cats. There are a few different ways your pet can become infected with tapeworms. The most common way is to ingest a flea. Fleas carry tapeworm larva and once ingested by your pet the larva develop into worms. It only takes one flea to cause a tapeworm infection. The other way your pet can become infected with tapeworms is to ingest the eggs. The eggs of tapeworms are released in the segments that can be seen under your pet's tail, on their bedding or stool. Unlike other intestinal parasites, tapeworms may not show up on a standard stool examination. The test to detect tapeworms is to see the small white segments that are expelled.

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Giardia

Unlike other intestinal parasites, giardia is not a “worm”. Giardia is a one-celled organism that can infect your pet. It is more common in young puppies and kittens, but can be found in all ages. Pets become infected with giardia by drinking water from the environment that has been contaminated with giardia. Many pets may not show any signs of illness when infected with giardia. The main sign of giardia is diarrhea. Pets that have had giardia for a long period of time may also exhibit weight loss and generally poor condition. To diagnosis this parasite a simple stool examination is needed. Giardia is a zoonotic disease. It can cause diarrhea in humans.

Coccidia

Coccidia are also a one-celled intestinal parasite. This parasite is more common in puppies and kittens than adults. Your pet becomes infected with coccidian by ingesting contaminated soil or other substances in the environment. The most common sign of coccidia is diarrhea. In severe cases bloody diarrhea will develop. Like other intestinal parasites coccidia is detected by have your pets stool examined.