



Dawson Creek Veterinary Clinic

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Parasites in your Pets Dr. Joana Varga

During routine/annual visits to the vet clinic, your pet may get sent home with a dewormer. Though it may seem that this is a small and routine part of your animals' care, it plays a huge role into keeping your pets and family healthy. At some point in life, parasites will worm their way into most dogs' lives. Dogs and cats are commonly exposed to worms through obvious ways such as rooting around in the dirt/grass, smelling or eating poop or hunting wildlife. Most animals won't show any signs that they are infected with worms, therefore, waiting until you see worms in their poop to act is not recommended. Worm eggs are commonly shed in feces and take a few days to develop/hatch in the environment before they can infect people or animals. For that reason, it is highly suggested that owners pick up after their dogs at home and in public areas to eliminate the risk to others.

Common worms that affect your pet?

There are many different kinds of worms including roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms and whipworms in Canada. Roundworms are the most common worm found in both dogs and cats, especially in puppies and kittens. The adult worm lives in intestine of animals and look like angel hair pasta. This worm is commonly transmitted to puppies/kittens through their moms milk during nursing and through the placenta before they are born. Common signs of infection include pot-bellied appearance (picture), diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss or dull coat.



and the

Tapeworms are another common worm that infects cats/dogs that their intestine. Tapeworms are frequently acquired from ingesting (tapeworm eggs in the flea!) when grooming themselves or infected animal. Tapeworms are long, flat worms that are a inches long but made up from segments that resemble grain or human eye. Each segment contains its very own reproductive Common sign of tapeworms is seeing the segments in dog and that look like rice or grain.



lives in
fleas
another
couple
rice to the
tract!
cats' poop

Deworming products

Lots of deworming products exist today. Many of them are broad spectrum, meaning they kill a wide variety of worms. wormers act in different ways. Some paralyse and kill the worms; in which case you may see worms in your dog's poop. Other wormers kill and break up the worms; in which case you don't see whole worms in your dog's poop. Your veterinarian will be able to recommend a product that is appropriate for your pet

labeled
Different

How often to deworm

There are many different deworming schedules that can be followed but what it comes down to is the risk and exposure level of your animal to worms. High risk animals are those that live in multi-pet homes, outdoors often being exposed to feces (such as in dog parks). If your cat or dog is considered a high risk, then deworming is recommended every 3 months. For lower risk animals, such as indoor only animals with minimal dirt or fecal exposure, then deworming is recommended every 6 months. For hunting or scavenging animals that are in households with at risk children, then monthly deworming is recommended.