

How often should you worm your CAT?

Cat lives indoors

The Infection pressure with worm stages is low. It's unlikely that the cat eats rodents.

Cat is free to roam

The Infection pressure with worm stages is high. It is likely that the cat eats rodents.



Group A

1-2 times per year faecal examination (and treatment according to findings) or treat 1-2 times a year against roundworms.

Group B

At least 4 times a year or treat against roundworms and tapeworms at least 4 times a year.

Preventive measures

- If you see tapeworm around the cat's anus or in the cat's stool, you will need to worm your cat against tapeworm with praziquantel, and start flea treatment.
- Regular examination of your cat's stool is a good alternative for the 'standard' worming advice
- Important hygiene measures for humans and animals:
 1. Wash your hands thoroughly (particularly children as well), especially before eating food.
 2. Wash your fruit and vegetable before consuming.
 3. Don't feed your pet raw meat. Ensure that there's always drinking water available.
 4. Cover sandpit when it's not being used.
 5. Pick up your pet's poop immediately and throw it away in the bins provided or garbage bin at home. Don't use it for compost. Wash your hands straight after.

Additional treatment

Treatment against roundworms:

- Kittens from 3 weeks of age, then every week 2 weeks until weaning and then monthly treatment until the age of 6 months.
- Lactating queens should be treated concurrently with the first treatment of kittens.
- Cats with increased risk of infection i.e. (shows, catteries etc.) Two treatments: a maximum of 4 weeks before and 2-4 weeks after the event. For catteries: use planned deworming once a month or examine faecal samples every four weeks.

Treatment against tapeworms:

- Flea infestation
- Worm your cat if a tapeworm infection has been discovered
- Fox tapeworms are not as important to cats

Treatment against heartworm endemic areas:

- Cats living in heartworm endemic areas should get monthly treatment against larvae during mosquito season
- Travel or importation to/from heartworm endemic areas. No later than 30 days after departure to 30 days after last possible travel date at monthly intervals.

If you would like to get more information about worming from our veterinarian, please visit <https://www.vetsend.co.uk/wormers>



Explanation about different worm types

Worms are parasites that can live in different areas of the animal's body. Dogs and cats can get infected at any time, no matter the age. They could even get infected with worms that pose a risk against humans. The important worm types are round, tape, and hookworms whose adult worms live in the small intestine. Heartworms live in the pulmonary artery and adult lungworms live in the vessels between the heart and lungs. Some worms can pose a risk to human health.

Roundworms

Roundworms are one of the most common worms found in dogs and cats. They are called roundworms because of their round shape. You can find these worms in the intestines, airways, under the skin, in cavities of the nose, and in large heart vessels. The most common roundworms found in dogs and cats in the UK are the *Toxocara canis*, and *Toxocara cati*.

Heartworms

Heartworm is the name of the parasite *Dirofilaria immitis*. This parasite can cause infections in dogs and cats. They are called 'heartworms' because they live in the pulmonary artery of the heart. Thankfully, these heartworm infections are not present in the United Kingdom, however, they could be found in animals that are from, or have been to South Europe.

Tapeworms

Tapeworms have an indirect life cycle. Adult tapeworms live in the intestines of the definitive host (for example, a dog or cat). They get there when young tapeworms (also known as hydatid cyst) settle themselves in the intermediate host (like sheep, fleas, rabbits, or mice). The dog consumes part of this intermediate host, which causes the cyst to settle in the dog's gastrointestinal tract. Here, they develop into adult tapeworms. In the definitive host, the tapeworms are not likely to cause major issues.

French Heartworm

French Heartworm (lungworm)

French heartworm is the name of the parasitic worm *Angiostrongylus Vasorum*. This parasite is able to infect dogs. This worm lives in the vessels between the heart and lungs, hence the name. It is also called lungworm because the infection can lead to severe lung damage. This parasite is becoming more common in the United Kingdom. Dogs can become infected when they eat slugs or prey animals that carry this worm.

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