



**Animal House**  
Veterinary surgery

[www.vetanimalhouse.co.uk](http://www.vetanimalhouse.co.uk)  
**01788 575300**

## **WORMS**

We are open seven days per week. Call us to book an appointment and for price of parasite control.

There are two main types that we are prone to in Britain that we can protect against

### **TAPEWORM**

These can be present in dogs and cats as they ingest fleas, through grooming and feeding, especially if they eat vermin or carrion. Fleas eat tapeworm eggs and so they have an associated life cycle. They can be 4-6 cms long and live in the intestine. A tapeworm has a small head and a body made up of segments. The end segments of the tape worm contain its eggs. These segments are shed and can be seen when your dog or cat goes to the loo. This is evidence of infestation which needs to be treated. These are parasites which can be passed to humans if you accidentally ingest a tapeworm segment. This seems unlikely but it has been known. Symptoms can include diarrhoea, vomiting, poor condition and weight loss. Your pet can also carry worms and show no symptoms in the early stages. Over the counter treatments do not work. You need a consultation with a vet for them to prescribe a preparation, usually in tablet form, to eradicate the problem.

### **ROUNDWORM**

Roundworms are found in new born puppies and kittens when passed to them from their mother via her uterus. They can also be passed to puppies and kittens from their mother as they are suckling. They are passed in larvae form and they work their way into the intestinal tract where they develop into adult worms capable of reaching 5 inches in length. As adult worms they begin to shed eggs which are passed in the animal's stools. As animals like licking their behinds, this is how the worms re-infest back into the same animal and get passed on to other animals if they ingest any worm eggs. The worm egg form grows into larvae, which are microscopic in size, migrates into the lungs where they are coughed up and re-ingested, then it migrates to the intestine where they grow into adult worms and the cycle starts over again. If the mother is treated for worms before falling pregnant and is worm free then she will not pass these on to her babies.

A female worm can produce 200,000 eggs in one day. The eggs are protected by a hard shell and can exist in the soil for years. The worms may be seen in vomit or stools. The puppy or kitten can show a pot-bellied appearance with poor growth. A severe infestation can result in intestinal blockage and death.

Adult dogs and cats can get roundworms too. The worms behave as they do in the young and also the larvae can encyst in the adult tissue lying dormant for periods of time. These larvae are activated out of dormancy during a mother's later stages of pregnancy ready to infest her young. Worming is successful in ridding worms from the intestinal tract but a mother with encysted worm larvae in her tissues will still pass on these worms to her new born.

We can give you prescription worming treatments that are effective for adults and young.

Puppies and kittens need to be wormed more frequently than adults to keep them from falling prey to roundworms. In consultation we can give you the exact dose and specific instructions suitable for your pet.

This is the worm that can cause eyesight damage to children. If you have puppies/kittens and children it is vital to observe proper hygiene and the correct worming treatment.

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