

PARASITES AND YOUR CAT

Fleas On Cats

Fleas are tiny insects that feed on blood from animals. Fleas are not only an inconvenience, but they can also cause tremendous anxiety and spread diseases in cats.

Flea Facts

- Fleas thrive in damp, dark places like shaded outdoor areas and under optimal temperature and humidity conditions, can live in a home year-round
- A single female flea can lay up to 50 eggs in a day.
- Immature flea stages will remain dormant in carpeting, bedding, baseboards, etc until conditions are appropriate for development.

Fleas may cause and/or transmit

- Flea allergy dermatitis (FAD), also known as flea bite hypersensitivity
- Anemia
- Tapeworm infection
- Bartonella infection

Treatment and Control of Fleas

- Even if you only see fleas on one pet, you should treat all pets in the home.
- Furniture, bedding, and high traffic areas should be cleaned frequently.
- Monthly, year-round application of products such as Comfortis, Vectra, etc can keep cats protected against fleas.

Ticks On Cats

Ticks are bloodsucking parasites that infest many species, including cats.

Tick Facts

- About 60 different tick species have been reported in the United States.
- Ticks are less common on cats than on dogs, due to the frequent grooming behavior of cats.

Ticks May Cause or Transmit

- Cytauxzoonosis
- Bartonella

Treatment and Control of Ticks

- Cats should be checked for ticks regularly, and ticks should be removed promptly.

- Outdoor cats have an increased risk for exposure, but indoor cats should be checked regularly as well.

Mites On Cats

Mites can cause numerous medical problems in cats, including scabies (notoedric mange), demodectic mange, ear infection, cheyletiellosis.

Mite Facts

- Some mites are highly contagious from cat to cat and also to dogs and ferrets.
- *Otodectes* and *Cheyletiella* are more prevalent in young animals.
- Demodectic mange is less common in cats than in dogs.

Mites May Cause

- Skin inflammation and ear infection
- Severe itching, leading to excessive grooming that leads to hair loss and skin damage.
- Skin infection (Secondary)

Treatment and Control

- Because most mites are contagious, all pets in the home should be treated and the home environment should be cleaned thoroughly.
- When used topically per label instructions, *Advantage Multi* © for cats can be used monthly and year-round to treat and control ear mites (*Otodectes*) effectively.
- If localized skin infection due to mite infestation is severe, additional therapy may be needed.

Heartworms in Cats

Feline heartworm disease, caused by the parasite *Dirofilaria immitis*, is difficult to diagnose but very serious. Some cats die suddenly without ever being diagnosed or showing signs of illness.

Heartworm Facts

- Mosquitoes transmit heartworm infection during blood feeding.
- Heartworms damage the lungs and pulmonary vessels of cats, causing a potentially fatal respiratory illness known as heartworm-associated respiratory disease (or HARD).

Heartworms May Cause

- heartworm-associated respiratory disease (or HARD)
- Vomiting and appetite loss
- Sudden death

Prevention

- Unlike canine heartworms, there are no approved treatments for feline heartworm disease. Prevention is the best protection!

• Monthly administration of a safe and effective heartworm preventive such as *Advantage Multi* © for cats is an excellent way to protect cats from heartworm disease year-round. Plus *Advantage Multi*

© *for cats* is a topical solution that is convenient to use.

- Because mosquitoes can enter a home, even 100% indoor cats should be on a heartworm preventive.

Tapeworms In Cats

Several species of tapeworms can infect cats. Some species can cause serious disease and create a nuisance for cats and their owners.

Tapeworm Facts

- Adult tapeworms live in the intestines of the cat and shed segments in the feces.
- Tapeworm segments are mobile and can be seen “crawling” in feces or near the cat's tail.
- Cats become infected when they kill and eat rodents or other small animals or by ingesting fleas during grooming.

Tapeworms May Cause

- Mild intestinal problems
- Intestinal obstruction
- Occasionally weight loss
- Itching near the anal area.

Treatment

- Tapeworms can be transmitted by fleas or by the consumption of infected rodents. Used monthly, products such as *Advantage Multi* © *for cats* can keep cats protected against fleas year round.

Roundworms in Cats

Roundworms are common intestinal parasites of cats. Eggs are passed in the feces and can live in the environment for years.

Roundworm Facts

- Roundworm infections are often not obvious. Adult worms can occasionally be passed in feces or vomit.
- Cats can become infected by direct ingestion of eggs or by ingestion of small animals that harbor the parasite.
- One type of feline roundworm, *Toxocara cati*, can infect kittens while they are nursing.

Roundworms May Cause

- Severe diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Intestinal obstruction

Treatment and Control

- Monthly, year-round applications of *Advantage Multi* © *for cats* treats and controls any

potential reinfections.

- Because eggs are excreted in the feces, it is important to treat all cats in the home.

Hookworms In Cats

Hookworms are bloodsucking parasites of many species, including cats, dogs and humans. They “graze” along the intestinal lining and feed on blood and tissue.

Hookworms May Cause

- Bloody diarrhea
- Significant blood loss
- Debilitation
- Death

Treatment

- If used monthly and year-round, *Advantage Multi* © for cats can treat and control any potential reinfections.
- Keep the environment clean and free of feces.