

Which Wormer?

As a practice we recommend the use of a broad spectrum wormer which treats cats and dogs for both roundworms and tapeworms, and which also treats in dogs, heartworm.

The wormer we use is particularly good in that you will not be required to give huge tablets or large numbers of them. We can appreciate that this can be difficult for pets who are not the easiest patients!

The worming tablets that are available through us are **Prescription Only Medicines**, so the pet to be treated must be registered at one of our practices and have been seen by a veterinary surgeon or a nurse within the last 12 months.

For all you cat owners out there...

We can provide a wormer that is **spot-on** treatment, which is simply emptied on the back of the neck. The broadspectrum wormer controls every relevant type of intestinal worm normally found in cats (roundworms, tapeworms & hookworms). This could very well be the best option for you if your cat is difficult to tablet. Ask our veterinary staff for details.

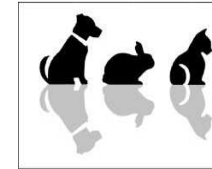
Pet Travel Scheme

Your pet must be treated against the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* using a veterinary medicine whose active ingredient is **praziquantel** (in Milbemax) between 24- 48 hours before returning to the UK.

Contact DEFRA's Pet Travel Scheme helpline for further details:

www.defra.gov.uk

0870 541 1710



**RAINSBROOK
VETERINARY
GROUP**

**Worming for cats
and dogs**



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This information sheet is not designed to replace more detailed descriptions of worm life cycles, or the pharmacology of the various worm preparations available. What it will do is give a summary of the common types of worm that may infect your pet and show you the effectiveness of common drugs against the different types of worms, allowing you to plan an effective worm control programme for your pet. Please feel free to ask any of the vets for further advice, or phone one of the surgeries.

Public Health

Worms do not usually cause intestinal infestation in people, but in rare cases, people may be infected by larval or intermediate stages of the worm's development. Young children are particularly susceptible, even more so if you have puppies or kittens as they generally have a larger worm burden. Roundworm larvae in particular may cause problems by migrating from the intestine to the eye causing blindness. Responsible pet owners can minimize this risk of infection with the use of 'poop-scoops', and regular treatment with an effective wormer.

Roundworms



Roundworms

There are three types of roundworm capable of causing significant disease in domestic animals: *Toxocara canis* (dogs), *Toxocara felis* (cats), *Toxascaris leonina* (dogs and cats).

The eggs are passed in faeces, and are swallowed when you pet grooms. Pups are infected in the uterus and from their mother's milk. All of these may cause symptoms ranging from vague ill health in adults, to severe intestinal disease in pups and kittens. However, usually large numbers of worms must be present before any symptoms are shown.

Tapeworms

The characteristic feature of the tapeworm life-cycle is the involvement of intermediate hosts. These can be either mammals (*Taenia* and *Echinococcus* species) or fleas (*Dipylidium*).



Tapeworm

Taenia - These tapeworm form cysts in the muscles of 'host' small mammals, which hatch out and cause infection when you pet eats the raw flesh of, eg. mice. It is unusual to see segments in your pet's faeces, but in advanced infections whole sections of worm may be passed or vomited up.

Echinococcus - These tapeworms use larger mammals as their intermediate host including sheep and man! They can cause large cysts in the liver and occasionally the brain but very few symptoms when they infect your pet.

Dipylidium - The intermediate host of this tapeworm is generally the flea, and is transmitted when your pet is grooming itself. Your pet does not have to be infested with fleas - one will be enough!

This is the commonest tapeworm, and



Dipylidium segments

will be seen as, looking like, grains of rice or small white segments on the hairs around the tail.

When to treat?

We advise all kittens and puppies should be dosed for roundworm **every 2 weeks, from 6 weeks to 3 month of age and then monthly until adulthood** . It is usually only necessary to treat pups and kittens for roundworms. Adult cats and dogs should be treated according to their worm exposure. **This could be monthly if your pet visits areas popular with other animals or has contact with a lot of wildlife, and should be at least a bare minimum of every 6 months, although currently we recommend worming your dog or cat every 3 months.**

We always recommend a broad-spectrum wormer to be given as a routine treatment. Please **DO NOT** wait until you see signs. Most adult cats and dogs with worm infestations do not pass worms in their faeces, even when they are passing worm eggs.