Parasites and Zoonotic Disease
what pet owners need to know

Zoonotic Disease Alert!
Waunakee Veterinary Clinic considers parasites and zoonotic disease transmission a serious health concern. We want to provide our clients with the information and safeguards required to protect both you and your pet(s).

PARASITIC ZOONOSES are diseases primarily of animals that can be transmitted to people. Many of these diseases can affect our pets and thereby put our families in danger. The growing popularity of cats and dogs and the high rate of parasitic (worm) infections have resulted in widespread soil contamination from infected eggs and larvae. Since children often play outside, they are the most at risk for disease transmission.

Zoonotic disease in humans can cause irritation, neurological problems, and vision loss. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 10,000 cases of human roundworm infection occur each year, and more than 700 result in vision loss.

Advanced parasitic control medication for your pet is available. For more information on how to protect your pet and your family, call our office and speak with one of our health care professionals.

Because the risk of parasites is often year-round, we recommend a monthly parasite prevention program, and we follow CDC guidelines and recommend parasite fecal exams every six months for your pet(s).

Learn more at: www.petsandparasites.org.

Questions? Please ask us!

Heartworm / Flea / Tick Preventative Guide

We recommend regular testing and once-a-month prescription medication to protect your family and pets.

Heartworm / Flea / Tick Preventative Guide

Trifexis® (Dogs)
Advantage® Multi (Dogs)
Revolution® (Cats)
Sentinel Spectrum® (Dogs)
Sentinel® (Dogs)
Heartgard® (Dogs & Cats)
ProHeart® 6 (Dogs)
Frontline® Tritak (Dogs & Cats)
Vectra 3D® (Dogs)
Comfortis® (Dogs and Cats)
Nexgard® (Dogs)
Bravecto™ (Dogs)
Capstar® (Dogs and Cats)
Preventic® Collar (Dogs)
Scalibor® Collar (Dogs)

Will You Be The Front Page Story?
Los Angeles Times

How will you protect your practice against liability for the transmission of zoonotic diseases and educate your clients on the importance of a parasite prevention program and the dangers of zoonotic disease transmission?

WHAT’S YOUR RISK? “Zoonotic transmission liability combines all the elements of a good media story. All it takes to seriously impair a practice’s reputation is a newspaper story linking a child’s zoonotic enterocolitis to a veterinarian’s failure to diagnose and treat the child’s puppy for worms.”
Internal Parasites You Must Be Aware Of:

ROUNDWORMS – This intestinal parasite is very common in our pet population and is also a human health concern. Signs of a roundworm infection include diarrhea, vomiting, stunted growth, rough coat, bloated belly and abdominal discomfort. However, some affected pets may be asymptomatic and show no signs of infection.

TAPEWORMS – This parasite is also very common in our pet population. Tapeworm infections normally occur when your pet eats fleas, mice or rats that carry the tapeworm larvae. An infection may cause your pet to sit down and drag its rear along the ground, and you may see worm segments that look like “rice” on its rear end or bedding.

HOOKWORMS – One way in which your pet can become infected with hookworms is by ingesting soil that has been contaminated by the stool of an infected animal. Hookworm eggs are deposited in the stool, which then contaminate the soil. If your pet comes into contact with this soil, simple self-grooming afterward could be the start of a hookworm infection.

The second way that your pet could develop a hookworm infection takes the above scenario a step further. When these hookworm eggs in the soil develop into larvae, the larvae can penetrate your pet’s paws after a walk through a contaminated area. Hookworms can also present a health risk to your family members if the larvae comes in contact with skin.

WHIPWORMS – This infestation occurs when your pet swallows whipworm eggs found in contaminated soil. Whipworms cause bloody diarrhea, anemia, dehydration and loss of appetite. A female whipworm can produce 2,000 eggs daily. Eggs are passed in feces and can survive for years in the soil. Whipworms are very difficult to eradicate.

GIARDIA – Giardia are protozoa, (microscopic single-celled organism with a flagellated teardrop shape) that can take up residence in the small intestine. Both animals and humans can contract these organisms by drinking contaminated water from streams and ponds. For your dog, just one lap of contaminated water or a bite on a contaminated stick is all it takes to contract giardia. Pets may also become infected by eating the droppings of contaminated animals or by licking their paws or fur after walking in an infected area. Clinical signs of giardia range from intestinal discomfort to explosive bloody diarrhea, sometimes accompanied by foul-smelling gas.

COCCIDIOSIS – Coccidia are classified as protozoa. Coccidiosis is primarily an infection of young animals and is transmitted to your pet when he or she ingests coccidia eggs, called oocysts. These oocysts enter the environment when they are discharged in the stool of an infected animal. Laboratory tests are the only positive way to determine which parasites are present. There is no single drug that will eliminate all the parasites your pet may have, so identification is important. Once the specific parasites have been identified, our professional staff will administer the proper medication to initially deworm your pet.

1. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that a microscopic fecal examination for each pet should be performed every six months to check for internal parasites. This is especially important if you have children in your home. Simply drop a fresh stool sample off at our hospital, and we will call you with the results. Laboratory tests are the only positive way to determine which parasites are present. There is no single drug that will eliminate all the parasites your pet may have, so identification is important. Once the specific parasites have been identified, our professional staff will administer the proper medication to initially deworm your pet.

2. Treat your adult pet monthly with a broad-spectrum dewormer, and have your puppy or kitten dewormed by a veterinarian at an early age (as early as four weeks old).

3. Make unprotected outdoor sandboxing off-limits; cover sandboxes when not in use.

4. Promptly collect and hygienically dispose of any animal feces in your environment.

Prevention is the key to your pet’s protection against a heartworm infection. We recommend testing your pet annually for heartworms. Once-a-month prescription medication is required to protect your pet during the year. This medication destroys any immature heartworms that exist in your pet’s bloodstream.

The veterinarians at Waunakee Veterinary Clinic recommend you implement a “Parasite Prevention Program.”