

Zoonotic Alert!

Waukeag 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).



Pictured above: Ocular manifestation of the roundworm (*Toxocara canis*) in a young child with resulting vision loss.

PARASITIC ZONOSSES are diseases primarily of animals that can be transmitted to people. Many of these diseases can affect our pets which can 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 lead to abdominal pain, skin irritations, 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!

Waukeag Veterinary Clinic

How to Minimize a Parasite Health Hazard for Your Family & Pet –



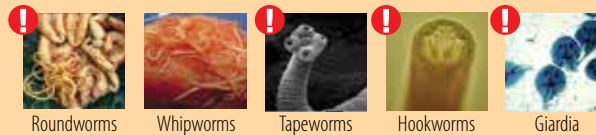
Hookworm effect on the skin

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

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 sandboxes off-limits; cover sandboxes when not in use.
4. Promptly collect and hygienically dispose of any animal feces in your environment.

SAMPLE

The risk of zoonosis should not scare anyone away from the unique and rewarding experience of owning a pet. It is, however, a reminder of our responsibilities toward our pet and toward our families and community.



! can be transmitted to humans

what pet owners need to know

Parasites and Zoonotic Disease



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IMPORTANT ZOOONOTIC ALERT

Are you providing the safeguards required to protect both you and your pet from internal parasites?

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 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 the pet’s 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.



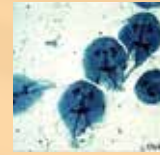
The second way that your pet could develop a hookworm infection takes the above scenario a step further. When these hookworm eggs in the soil develop into larvae, the larvae can penetrate your pet’s paws after a walk through a contaminated area. Hookworms can also present a health risk to your family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



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GIARDIA – Giardia are protozoa, a microscopic single-celled organism with a flagellated teardrop shape, which 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, which are microscopic, single-celled organisms. Coccidiosis is primarily an infection of young animals and is transmitted by your pet ingesting coccidia eggs, called oocysts. These oocysts enter the environment when they are discharged in the stool of an infected host. It is an infection common to many mammals. If your pet spends time roaming the wide outdoors, they may be more susceptible to coccidiosis. Coccidia invade your pet’s intestinal lining, destroying the tissue. This can lead to bloody diarrhea, listlessness, dehydration and abdominal pain.

HEARTWORMS – Heartworm disease in animals is a serious health threat that can ultimately result in heart failure and death. **ONE BITE** from an infected mosquito can transmit heartworms to your pet. Dogs are the most common victims, but cats, ferrets and other animals are also susceptible. The heartworms restrict blood flow and cause organ damage and, ultimately, death. Symptoms include coughing, labored breathing and heart failure. Treatment is available for dogs, although it is expensive and may cause complications.



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.

SAMPLE

DESIGN NOTES: You can edit any elements to meet your unique practice requirements and, if desired, include your own practice photos.

External Parasites –



FLEAS – Fleas have been on this earth for over 100 million years and have great reproductive capacity, which allows them to quickly infest and, overwhelm your home. In fact, one adult female flea can lay **40-50 eggs per day**. In just a matter of a week or two, you can have a serious flea infestation with thousands of adult and pre-adult fleas in your environment.

Fleas transmit a number of diseases, including epidemic typhus and bubonic plague, and they are also a carrier for **TAPEWORMS**. In addition, flea saliva has been called one of the most irritating substances known to man. Many dogs and cats are allergic to it, causing a reaction called flea allergy dermatitis, the most common allergic disease among pets.

It is much easier to prevent flea infestations than to treat them. Remember, for every flea you see on your pet there are hundreds more in your environment.

TICKS – Ticks are parasites that infest every class of terrestrial vertebrate. Ticks live in tall grasses and heavily wooded areas and can survive cold fall temperatures. Ticks have many advantages. They have an unusually long lifespan, which not only perpetuates the ticks but also the diseases they may carry, making it considerably more difficult to control these diseases.



Ticks pose a health threat to both pets and people. Ticks transmit disease-causing agents, several of which have risen to epidemic proportions. **Some of the most common tick-borne diseases are Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.**

It is important to perform a tick check any time you or your pets are in environments favorable for ticks. Don’t forget to check between the toes and behind the ears, where ticks love to hang out.