

General



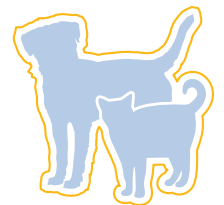
- Parasite control in pets should be assessed and recommendations given at least every 12 months as part of an annual health check.
- Good hand hygiene should be encouraged, especially in children.
- Where possible, sandpits/boxes should be covered when not in use.
- Fruit and vegetables intended for uncooked human consumption should be washed thoroughly before use.
- Feeding pets unprocessed raw meat diets should be discouraged and fresh water should always be made available.
- Faeces should be picked up immediately when walking a dog and gardens should be cleared of faeces on a daily basis. Do not compost dog and cat waste if compost is intended for edible crops. Hands should be thoroughly washed after disposing of faeces.

Endoparasites



- To maintain individual health and to prevent environmental contamination with *Toxocara* eggs, puppies and kittens should be treated for roundworm every 14 days until 14 days post weaning. Treatment should be started at 14 days for puppies and 21 days for kittens. The mother should be treated at the same time.
- Adult cats and dogs should be dewormed at least 4 times a year to reduce intestinal roundworm egg shedding (including *Toxocara* spp.) This may be increased to monthly treatments if young children or immune-suppressed individuals are in the household. In countries or regions where routine treatments are not acceptable for legislative reasons an alternative would be to perform regular faecal examinations followed by anthelmintic treatment if results are positive.
- In areas endemic for *Echinococcus granulosus*, dogs with access to offal or livestock carcasses should be treated with a product effective against this parasite at least every 6 weeks.
- In areas endemic for *Echinococcus multilocularis*, dogs that may hunt and eat small prey should be treated monthly with a product effective against this parasite.
- In heartworm endemic countries, cats, dogs and ferrets should be given seasonal preventative heartworm medication according to the local epidemiological situation. Dogs in endemic areas should be tested for heartworm infection annually and all pets should be tested before being given heartworm preventive medication.
- Routine treatment for worms and lungworm prevention both depend upon legislation in individual countries, veterinary professionals taking local epidemiological circumstances into account, owner perception (such as a desire for a “zero risk” approach) and individual risk assessments (hunting pets, previous lungworm exposure, raw meat diets etc). Deworming practices should therefore always be on the advice of a veterinary professional.

Ectoparasites



- Flea infestation is an all-year-round risk for pets and exposure is difficult to avoid. The decision to use flea preventative products should be based upon a risk-based assessment but owners should be made aware that if routine prophylaxis is not used and infestation established, fleas will take at least 3 months to eliminate. Prophylactic treatment should be used in conjunction with environmental control.
- Tick prevention should be advised for cats and dogs at significant risk. This risk will be greater during the tick season but exposure for high-risk cats and dogs may occur throughout the year in some countries.
- In canine *Leishmania* species endemic areas, dogs should be treated monthly with sand fly repellent products. Cats should be risk assessed on lifestyle to determine whether they also need a repellent.