Scheme for individual deworming of cats

### ADDITIONAL TREATMENTS FOR CATS

#### Roundworms

**Kittens**
From 3 weeks of age, then every 2 weeks until weaning and then monthly treatment until the age of 6 months.

**Pregnant queens**
A single treatment of emodepside spot-on approximately seven days before expected parturition prevents lactogenic transmission of *Toxocara cati* larvae to the kittens.

**Lactating queens**
Should be treated concurrently with the first treatment of kittens (see above).

**Cats with increased risk of infection i.e. those used in competitions, shows or those kept in catteries etc.**
Two treatments: a maximum of 4 weeks before and 2–4 weeks after the event. For catteries: use planned deworming once a month or examine faecal samples every four weeks and treat according to findings.

**Cats sharing homes with children below 5 years or immunocompromised individuals**
Depending on the risk assessment, use planned deworming once a month or examine faecal samples once a month and treat according to findings.

#### Tapeworms

**Eats raw meat and/or offal, eats prey or goes hunting**
Cats should be tested at least 4 times a year by faecal examination and treated accordingly to findings or dewormed at least 4 times a year.

**Flea infestation (as a vector for *Dipylidium*)**
Once when the infestation is established.

***Echinococcus multilocularis***
Cats rarely shed *E. multilocularis* eggs and therefore infection is of little epidemiological significance.

#### Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*)*

**Cats living in heartworm endemic areas**
Prophylactic larval treatment with macrocyclic lactones at monthly intervals during the mosquito season.

**Travel or importation to/from endemic areas for heartworm**
No later than 30 days after departure to 30 days after last possible travel date at monthly intervals.

- Deworming practices should always be on the advice of a veterinary professional. Regular coprological examination of faeces, as suggested in Groups A and B, is a good alternative to standard deworming advice.
- If the individual risk of an animal cannot be judged clearly, the animal should be examined or dewormed at least 4 times a year. Studies have shown that deworming 1–3 times a year does not provide sufficient protection. Deworming every 3 months does not necessarily prevent patent infections.

* Detailed information about heartworm infection in dogs and cats can be found in ESCCAP Guideline 5: Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Dogs and Cats at www.esccap.org