



Facts and Information

About Intestinal Parasites

- 1) **Intestinal Parasites** are extremely common and threaten your pet's health. Large numbers can cause intestinal blockage, bloody diarrhea and even premature death in young or weakened pets. Certain types can also infect you and your family.
- 2) **Infection** can occur through ingesting a flea, contact with infected animals, their droppings and contaminated food or water.
- 3) **Symptoms** include anemia, diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite and weight loss, constipation and coughing.
- 4) **Diagnosis** - Microscopic examination of your pet's stool sample is necessary. At times, tapeworm segments may be noticed in your pet's stool, around the anal area or in the bedding. They look like grains of rice. Other intestinal parasites are not visible and can only be detected and identified by microscopic exam.
- 5) **Treatment** is precise and based on the exact type of parasite(s) present. Your veterinarian may prescribe oral medications or injections. Worms and their eggs are difficult to destroy, so follow-ups may be necessary.
- 6) **Over-the-counter (OTC) products** are risky if administered improperly and your pet may have parasites that an OTC product does not act on. These parasites can cause serious problems if not detected by microscopic exam and properly treated.
- 7) **Prevention** - Sanitation is the key to parasite control. Promptly remove stool from the yard. Control fleas and contact with small wild animals, birds, other dogs, cats and all droppings. Stool samples should be examined microscopically by your veterinarian on a regular basis.

Remember, it's very important to clear your pet's system of these parasites to assure sound growth and good worm-free health.