



INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR DOG OWNERS

PARASITE CARE



Most dogs in the UK spend time outdoors walking and roaming in the countryside. This can lead to them picking up microscopic parasites that we can't see. We will discuss the different types of parasites that can cause issues and how we recommend treating them using specialised treatments and preventative care.

Fleas

Fleas are a risk to our pet all year round – they are more common in warmer months but can be found at any time of year so we recommend treating them year-round.

- Immature fleas can be found outside and jump on to your pet, they do not need contact with other pets in order to get fleas.
- One flea can produce 50 eggs per day - that's over 1000 in 3 weeks – so one flea can very quickly lead to an infestation.
- Up to 95% of the flea population will live in the environment (soft furnishings, pet beds, carpets, etc), with only 5% being on your pet.
- Flea bites can cause intense itchiness and scratching, hair loss, sore skin and anemia (lack of red blood cells)
- Some animals may suffer from flea allergic dermatitis (an allergy to flea saliva)
- Fleas can also transmit tapeworms to your pet

It is always worth treating your house for fleas as well as your pet. We recommend the use of a household spray which should be used every 12 months. One can is usually enough to treat approximately a three bedroom house. Always read the instructions before use.

Ticks

Ticks live in woodlands and grasslands all year round, but they are more common during spring and autumn.

- Ticks can attach to your pet when they walk through woodlands and grasslands.
- When ticks feed on the blood of your pet, they can cause anaemia or transmit diseases like Lyme disease.
- When removing a tick it is important to make sure that the mouthpiece isn't left in the skin. To make this easier you can buy a special tool to remove them.

If you are worried about removing a tick on your own, or are unsure if it is a tick that you can see on your pet, please don't hesitate to call your local practice and a nurse will be able to help you remove it and provide ongoing advice.

Intestinal Worms

Intestinal worms live in the gastrointestinal tract of your pet and can cause weight loss and upset stomach.

- Roundworms can be picked up from infected soil or hunting behaviour
- Tapeworms can be acquired by swallowing infected fleas, hunting behaviour or from scavenging
- Many intestinal worms that affect your pets can also cause disease in you and your family

Lungworm

Your pet can get lungworm from eating snails, slugs or contaminated grass.

- Lungworm larvae will grow once inside your pet, maturing into adult lungworms that move through the body to live in the heart and blood vessels
- Lungworm infection can cause coughing, lethargy and weight loss

Other Common Parasites

Other parasites like Demodex, ear mites, Sarcoptes (mange) and lice can cause itchiness irritation, bald patches. Luckily, these parasites can be prevented through veterinary prescription treatments that will be appropriate tailored for your cat's size, age and life stage.

With parasite control, we recommend that prevention is better than cure so we can provide you with products to ensure your pet stays protected.

How to Treat

Routine monthly treatment – Adult dogs and puppies over 8 weeks of age

Our current recommendation for dog flea and worm treatment contains Milbemycin Oxime and Afoxolaner and is given with a Praziquantel tablet to cover all Worms, Fleas and Ticks! They are provided as an oral tablet and the dosage of these veterinary prescription treatments will be selected based on your dog's weight and age.

Flea and worming for pregnant and lactating bitches and their puppies

Worms can be passed from a mother to her unborn puppies so it is therefore important to treat a pregnant female with Fenbendazole at day 40 of pregnancy, then once daily until 2 days post-partum.

For fleas and tick cover we recommend using Fipronil products as they are licensed to use in pregnant females. Imidacloprid also has no evidence of any adverse side effects in pregnant females. We recommend always checking with a vet before giving treatment.

Newborn Puppies

For worms you can treat them with Fenbendazole once daily at 2, 5 and 8 weeks old

For fleas use a Fipronil product which is licensed for use in puppies aged 2 days and older

The products mentioned are prescription medications so we are required to see your pet every 12 months to ensure they are fit enough to receive the recommended medication.

Join Our Pet Health Plan

At Abbey Vets we offer a pet health plan which includes the cost of our recommended flea and worming treatment in a low monthly cost. It also has other exciting benefits and discounts: more information can be found on our website;

www.abbeyvets.co.uk/pet-health-plan



Small
up to 10kg

£14.99 / per month



Medium
10.1-25kg

£16.49 / per month



Large
25.1-40kg

£18.49 / per month



X Large
40.1kg+

£26.49 / per month

To join the plan, please speak with a member of the team from your local branch.

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