



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7 • JULY 2014 NEWSLETTER

FELINE PARASITES

Though parasites can affect your kitty at any time of the year, it's not unusual for us to see an increase in parasitic infections during the hot summer months, when your kitty may be more frequently exposed to potential carriers.

Feline parasites are divided into two broad categories: those that live outside the body (such as fleas, mites, ticks, and lice) and those that live inside the body (including tapeworms, heartworms, and ringworms).

Parasites can cause your kitty a great deal of distress, and even be downright painful. While usually not fatal, untreated parasitic infections can cause serious illness and spread disease.

Indoor and outdoor cats are both at risk; just because your kitty lives indoors does not mean she's immune to infection. Fortunately, there are a number of excellent medications to help control these parasites.

Profender

Profender is used for treatment and control of hookworms, roundworms, and tapeworms. It's applied topically (on the skin) at the base of your kitty's neck.

Advantage/Advantage Multi

Advantage, another topical medication, helps control fleas along with associated flea allergy dermatitis and flea anemia. Advantage Multi, also a topical medication, helps control fleas, ear mites, hookworms, roundworms, and heartworms.

Frontline Plus

Frontline Plus is a topical medication that helps control brown ticks, American dog ticks, Long Star ticks, deer ticks, and chewing lice. It also protects against fleas, flea eggs, and larvae.

Drontal

Drontal is a broad-spectrum dewormer. This pill, given in 2 doses, can provide optimal protection against worms.

HEARTGARD

HEARTGARD, a chewable treat, is given monthly to help protect against heartworms. (Yes, your kitty can become infected by heartworms.)

Zoonotic Parasites

Some intestinal parasites can be transmitted from pets to humans—and children are especially vulnerable. Hookworms, roundworms, and whipworms can spread through the skin and eyes after direct contact with the worms. The parasites can cause skin lesions, infections, and even permanent eye damage based on their migration pattern throughout your body. Fortunately, these parasites are easily preventable with the appropriate medications.

Bartonella (“Cat Scratch Disease”)

While we're discussing parasite control, it's important to mention Bartonella, also known as the “Cat Scratch Disease” bacteria. Though Bartonella is not a parasite, it's primarily transmitted via two parasites: fleas and ticks. It's a zoonotic bacteria, meaning it can be transmitted from your cat to you via scratches, bites, or contact with fur. Bartonella is treated with a course of an appropriate antibiotic. Usually, a follow-up test is given 6 months after successful treatment and resolution of symptoms. Cats carrying the bacteria may present with many clinical signs, or none at all. Symptoms include gingivitis, oral lesions, upper respiratory issues, fever, and eye, intestinal, skin, and heart diseases. Humans are also susceptible to Bartonella symptoms; consult with your physician to obtain more information about Cat Scratch Disease.



Prevention is the Best Medicine

The best way to prevent the spread of disease is to maintain a regular schedule of deworming and parasite preventive treatments for your kitty.

Typically, a combination of medications will be used to help protect your kitty from a variety of parasites. Our doctors will recommend a specific medication combination and dosage program for your cat, and we offer very competitive product pricing. (Note that some medications may require a wellness exam prior to dispensing.)

Don't miss our special offer below to help protect your kitty (and your family) from parasites.

JULY SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

This month, our special offer will help protect your kitty against fleas, intestinal parasites, and heartworm. **When you purchase two 4-packs or 6-packs of HEARTGARD, Advantage, Advantage Multi, or Frontline, you'll receive a \$5 discount!** Please stop by our front desk for more information.

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.

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