

Parasites



All cats become infected with internal parasites (intestinal worms) at some point in their lives and regular deworming is an important part of basic pet care.

How did my cat get worms?

Most intestinal parasites are passed from cat to cat through a shared environment. Cats with worms pass eggs in their stool. When other cats come in contact with the eggs, they swallow them, and become infected. Adult cats may also pick up worms from eating prey that was infested. Kittens get worms from their mother or the environment. Finally, cats become infested with tapeworms from eating fleas during grooming, so most cats that have fleas also have tapeworms.



How can I tell if my cat has worms?

The best way to tell if your cat has worms and identify what type they have, is to have your veterinarian run a fecal float test. Then, your veterinarian can provide the right medication for your cat. Tapeworm infection can sometimes be identified by finding tapeworm segments (looks like white rice) around your cat's rectum or in their stool. Roundworms may also be seen (looks like spaghetti noodles) in the stool.

How do I get rid of the worms?

Regular yearly deworming at your cat's annual checkup is all that is needed for most healthy adult cats. Kittens under 14 weeks old usually need several doses of deworming medication, which your veterinarian can provide.

Unfortunately, many over the counter deworming medications are not effective and some can be poisonous to cats. Please talk to your veterinarian to find the best option for you and your pets.

What about Community Cats and Ferals?

Although it isn't possible to prevent reinfection in free-roaming cats, deworming medication and flea treatment at surgery can significantly reduce the challenges these cats experience.

What deworming medication does FCSNP offer at the time of surgery?

FCSNP can only offer deworming medication at the time of surgery.

Praziquantel: an injection at the time of surgery that kills tapeworms only. It only kills worms present at the time of injection, so treating for fleas at the same time is crucial for preventing reinfection. It does not treat other types of worms.

Revolution: a topical flea treatment given at surgery. This medication provides 30 days of flea protection *and* kills certain types of intestinal worms, ear mites, and lice (but not tapeworms). It may take additional doses to completely kill intestinal worms, mites and lice.

Please see your veterinarian for continuing flea and parasite prevention.