

Protect Your Pet and the People You Love

Routine fecal testing keeps everyone healthy.

YOUR PET IS AT RISK

When you think of parasites, you probably picture fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes. But external parasites aren't the only ones you need to be concerned about. Your pet is at risk for acquiring nasty intestinal parasites, such as hookworm, roundworms, tapeworms, whipworms, and Giardia.

These intestinal parasites can be more than just a nuisance. They can cause serious health problems:

- Allergic reactions
- Blood loss and anemia
- Damage to internal organs
- Nutrient loss
- Release of toxins into the body
- Death

PARASITES ARE BAD FOR EVERYBODY

Some intestinal parasites can be **transmitted from pets to people**. These zoonotic parasites can cause problems in humans ranging from minor to life-threatening:

- Digestive problems
- Liver and lung damage
- Partial or total blindness
- Skin lesions

The Companion Animal Parasite Council, a nationally recognized board of specialized veterinarians, recommends testing healthy adult pets for parasites at least one or two times a year.

CHILDREN ARE AT GREATER RISK THAN ADULTS

Let's face it. Kids touch and ingest a lot of things they shouldn't - dirt, sand, grass - and they also love to play with pets. These factors combine to increase children's risk of becoming infected with parasites.

One roundworm can produce more than 100,000 eggs a day. These eggs can present a health risk to pets and people.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR FAMILY TO STAY SAFE

The following precautions can help keep your best friend and your family safe from parasites:

- **Remove your pet's feces from your yard** as often as possible, and dispose of it properly.
- **Have your pet tested routinely.** Your veterinarian will recommend a schedule based on your pet's age, health, and time spent outdoors
- If your pet is infected, **follow your veterinarian's recommendations** for treatment and follow-up testing.
- Ask your veterinarian whether a **broad-spectrum deworming medication** is appropriate for your pet.
- **Restrict your family's access** to potentially contaminated areas.
- **Don't let your pet drink out of the toilet** or puddles.
- **Maintain good personal hygiene.** In particular, thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water when you are done cleaning up after your pet, and make sure children wash their hands when they come in from outside and after playing with pets.

Don't Let Parasites Pose a Threat to Your Family

Intestinal parasites can be transmitted year round. Unfortunately, it is easy for pets to become infected with these parasites, which can often go undetected. Frequent fecal testing is crucial for effective detection and treatment of intestinal parasites.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOUR PET BE TESTED?

To control intestinal parasites, the Companion Animal Parasite Council recommends the following fecal testing schedule:

- Two to four times per year for puppies and kittens
- One to two times per year for adult dogs and cats receiving broad-spectrum heartworm preventative medication
- Two to four times per year for adult dogs and cats not receiving broad-spectrum heartworm preventative medication
- More frequent testing depending on lifestyle factors and your pet's health

*If your pet doesn't have parasites,
your pet can't transmit parasites to you.*

PREVENTING PARASITE INFECTION

Prevention and routine fecal testing are the most effective ways to protect your pet and your family against intestinal parasites. Help keep everyone in your household safe and healthy: Talk to your veterinarian today!