

**All about worms in cats and dogs : the answers to your questions /
Sherley's Ltd.**

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WORMS

All about
in cats and dogs



Many people turn off from the subject of worms.

Worms are disgusting, unhygienic, unhealthy - exactly the reason why a strict worming regime should be carried out.

Although a problem such as worms is a fact of life, in a survey carried out by Sherley's, 59% of cat owners and 54% of dog owners stated that they had neither bought nor used wormers on their pets, even though simple, highly effective, and easy-to-use treatments are available from their local pet shop, garden centre or veterinary surgeon.



The answers to your questions

SHERLEY'S

THE EXPERTS IN PET CARE

worms in dogs

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON WORMS FOUND IN DOGS?

Worms can be generalised into two categories - roundworms and tapeworms. Both can be extremely unpleasant for dogs - and their owners - should they inadvertently come across them!

HOW DO DOGS GET WORMS, AND WHAT HAPPENS ONCE THEY HAVE GOT THEM?

roundworms



The most important roundworm in dogs to consider is *Toxocara canis*. These worms can be several inches long and they have round bodies - similar to

tiny earthworms. They tend to be of a whitish or pinkish brown colour due to ingested material.

Their life cycle depends very much on the age of the animal. Puppies are either born with a roundworm infestation (see later), or worm eggs are picked up in the garden, or public places, having been deposited in the faeces of other dogs. These pass through to the intestines where they hatch into tiny larvae. The larvae migrate through the wall of the intestines, enter the bloodstream, and then travel to the liver. They stay in the liver for a few days and then travel back into the bloodstream, travel through the heart and end up in the puppies' lungs. Here they cause tickling and are coughed up, but as dogs rarely spit they are swallowed and so end up in the intestines again. At this point they mature into adults, start laying eggs, which are passed out in the faeces, and the cycle begins all over again.

In older dogs the life cycle is slightly different because of a developing immunity to worms. Larvae reach the liver but are then diverted into the muscles of the animal, where the body forms harmless, very small cysts around them. These cysts can lay dormant in the muscles for many years, causing no problem at all for the dog. However, if a bitch is infected in this way, and she later becomes pregnant, the natural hormonal changes of pregnancy allow the release of larvae from

this dormant state, leaving them to migrate through the body once more. They are then able to infect her developing puppies through the placenta before birth. Virtually all puppies are born with worms. This is an unavoidable fact of life. Consequently, puppies have to be wormed frequently for roundworm infestations.

tapeworms

There are two main types of tapeworm that affect dogs - the *Taenia* and *Dipylidium* species - and these are often found in adult dogs. They are so-called due to their resemblance to a tape measure. They are flat worms, composed of many individual segments.

The intermediate host, or carrier, of *Dipylidium caninum* is the flea. The dog is infected whilst grooming by swallowing the flea which contains developing worms. The worm, once inside the dog, grows into a tape and attaches itself to the intestine, where it remains until it is mature. It then begins to shed the characteristic oval segments, containing microscopic eggs, which are passed out in the dog's faeces. Once out in the environment these segments dry out and the eggs are expelled, leaving them free to be eaten by flea larvae, and the cycle is repeated.



Taenia tapeworms are common in dogs that hunt, that scavenge, or that are fed offal. Tapeworms can grow to be several metres in length, and a single dog can carry one or many. Although the adult worm does little damage to its host, the egg cases of *Dipylidium*, which look like 'grains of rice' passed in the faeces, can still be moving when they are passed. This can cause irritation to the dog's anus, is most unpleasant to watch, and is very uncomfortable for your dog!

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO TREAT FOR WORMS?

Worming dogs has never been easier! For puppies, Sherley's produce Worming Cream and Worming Syrup, both of which are very easily administered. Worming Cream comes in an easy-to-use syringe, and the Syrup is dispensed via a pump. These preparations can be given to young animals from two weeks of age, with a minimum of fuss, and ensure that there is no waste.



From weaning onwards, the award-winning Sherley's One Dose Wormer is recommended for the treatment of both round and tapeworm, and is very easy to use.

Unlike the old fashioned three-week treatments, you dose the dog on one day only, using only a small number of tablets. This product has been used through veterinary surgeons under a different brand name for over twenty years, and is thus a well established, tried and tested product.

Sherley's Worming Granules for Dogs are a new development, and are particularly helpful if your dog does not like swallowing tablets. The odourless, tasteless granules are simply sprinkled onto your dog's food.

HOW LONG DOES A WORM TREATMENT LAST?

There are no worming products with a residual activity. They work at the time of administration and can be through the body in 48 hours. Therefore, you can see why you need to have a regime of three-monthly treatments.



I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT ROUNDWORMS CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS IN CHILDREN - IS THIS TRUE?

Firstly, this problem is extremely rare. Although the round worm cannot complete its life cycle in humans, ingested eggs can occasionally cause serious conditions in children. They hatch into larvae in the gut and then migrate to various organs of the body, including the liver, lungs, eyes and brain, where they can become permanently encysted. It is therefore of great importance to see that puppies which are in contact with children are kept free from worms, and that a good standard of hygiene is maintained. The dog's faeces should be cleared away as soon as possible from gardens, exercise runs, and parks to prevent the ground becoming heavily contaminated with worm eggs, which can lie dormant in the topsoil for several years. Eggs in fresh faeces are not infective (they take about two weeks to develop on the grass), so you are not in danger when scooping these poops.

worms in cats

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON WORMS FOUND IN CATS?

Worms can be generalised into two categories - roundworms and tapeworms. Both can be extremely unpleasant for cats - and their owners - should they inadvertently come across them!

HOW DO CATS GET WORMS, AND WHAT HAPPENS ONCE THEY HAVE GOT THEM?

roundworms

The most common roundworm found in cats is *Toxocara cati*. Similar to a thin earthworm, these may be up to several inches in length and are sometimes coiled up in a mass. Their colour is whitish, or pinkish brown, owing to ingested food material.

The adult worm may be passed in the faeces but because of the cat's clean habits, the worms are not easily detected. They may be vomited and it is not uncommon for an adult cat to expel a single large worm when regurgitating hair.

Worm eggs ingested by the cat hatch out as larvae in the intestines. They then pass through the gut wall and migrate to the liver, heart, and lungs.

Here they cause tickling and are coughed up, but as cats rarely spit they are swallowed and so end up in the intestines again. At this point they mature into adults, start laying eggs, which are passed out in the faeces, and the cycle begins all over again.

Worm larvae can also be found in other creatures (eg. mice) that have eaten the eggs. If an infected mouse is eaten by a cat, these larvae then develop into adult worms in the cat's intestine.

Young kittens can be infected either by ingesting eggs or by ingesting larvae that have passed through the mother's milk. Infection before birth does not happen in cats but does occur in dogs.



tapeworms

These are so-called due to their resemblance to a tape measure. They are flat worms, composed of many individual segments. There are two main types of tapeworm that affect cats - the *Taenia* and *Dipylidium* species - and these are often found in adult cats.

The 'intermediate host', or carrier, of *Dipylidium caninum* is the flea. The cat is infected whilst grooming by swallowing the flea which contains developing worms. The worm, once inside the cat, grows into a tape and attaches itself to the intestine where it remains until it is mature. It then begins to shed the characteristic oval segments, containing microscopic eggs, which are passed out in the cat's faeces. These are eaten by flea larvae, and the cycle is repeated. Tapeworms can grow to be quite a few centimetres in length, and a single cat may be carrying hundreds. Although the adult worm does little damage to its host, the egg cases can cause irritation to the cat's anus (they move about independently) and are most unpleasant to watch, and very uncomfortable for your cat!

Taenia tapeworms are common in cats that hunt, as they are carried by mice and other small rodents. This type of tapeworm can grow to be 5 metres long! Not a pleasant thought for any cat-lover.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO TREAT FOR WORMS?

Worming kittens has never been easier! Sherley's produce Worming Cream and Worming Syrup, both of which are very easily administered. Worming Cream comes in an easy-to-use syringe, and the Syrup is dispensed via a pump. These preparations can be given to young animals with a minimum of fuss, and ensure that there is no waste.



From six months of age, Worming Granules or a Multi-wormer can be used. The latter consists of a three-week treatment for both roundworm and tapeworm. You give a roundworm dose on week one, a tapeworm dose on week two, and another roundworm dose on week three.

Sherley's Worming Granules are a new development, and are particularly helpful if your cat does not like swallowing tablets. The odourless, tasteless granules are simply sprinkled onto your cat's food.

HOW LONG DOES A WORM TREATMENT LAST?

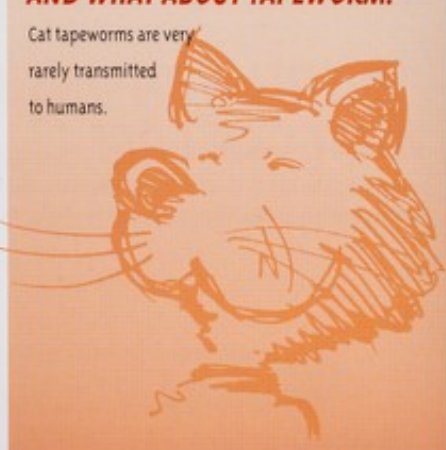
There are no worming products with a residual activity. They work at the time of administration and can be through the body in 48 hours. Therefore, you can see why you need to have a regime of three-monthly treatments.

I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT ROUNDWORMS CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS IN CHILDREN - IS THIS TRUE?

Until recently, it was thought that only the dog roundworm *Toxocara canis* was a threat to human health. However, recent studies have shown that the cat roundworm *Toxocara cati* can also cause such problems (please refer to the section under 'Worms in Dogs'). This is another good reason for worming your cat regularly and also cleaning up faeces, where possible.

AND WHAT ABOUT TAPEWORM?

Cat tapeworms are very rarely transmitted to humans.



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WHAT PRODUCTS DO SHERLEY'S MANUFACTURE FOR WORM TREATMENT IN CATS AND DOGS?

Sherley's produce a wide range of worming preparations, which are listed below:



- One Dose Wormer For Dogs - all-in-one wormer for the treatment of medium and large breed puppies and adult dogs. Available in 2 tablet and 4 tablet packs.
- One Dose For Small Dogs & Puppies - a lower dosage version of the above, designed to treat smaller adult dogs and puppies. Available in 3 tablet and 6 tablet packs.
- Worming Granules - for adult dogs that hate tablets. Simply sprinkle the virtually tasteless and odourless granules on food for a no-nonsense solution to routine worming.
- Multiwormer Dog - a three-week treatment for both roundworm and tapeworm. Also available in a "Big Breed" pack. For adult dogs.
- Palatable Wormer For Dogs - a yeast-flavoured tablet for the treatment of roundworm. Suitable for dogs of all ages.
- Worming Cream - a palatable cream for the treatment of roundworm. For dogs of all ages.
- Worming Syrup - a chocolate-flavoured syrup for the treatment of roundworm. For dogs of all ages, and especially for easy worming of puppies.

- Worming Granules - for adult cats that hate tablets. Simply sprinkle the virtually tasteless and odourless granules on food for a no-fuss solution to routine worming.
- Multiwormer Cat - a three-week treatment for both roundworm and tapeworm. For adult cats.
- Palatable Wormer For Cats - a yeast-flavoured tablet for the treatment of roundworm. Suitable for cats of all ages.
- Worming Cream - a palatable cream for the treatment of roundworm. For cats of all ages.
- Worming Syrup - a chocolate-flavoured syrup for the treatment of roundworm. For cats of all ages, and especially for easy worming of kittens.

As you can see, there is something for all dogs and cats, whether young, old, large, or small. Make sure you read the label of your chosen product carefully before using it.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP PREVENT WORMS?

There are three main points to note:

1 Worm regularly. Puppies and kittens should be wormed every two weeks until the age of 12 weeks, then four-weekly until 20 weeks, and thereafter every three months. Adult dogs and cats should be wormed every three months.

2 Carry out flea treatments routinely. The intermediate host of *Dipylidium* tapeworm is the flea, as mentioned earlier. Therefore, the fewer fleas you have in your home, the less chance of tapeworm problems.

Think flea control

3 Clear up after your pet. When taking your dog for a walk, take a "Whoopsie-Bag" with you. There are thousands of roundworm eggs lying dormant in parks, on paths, etc.

Think Whoopsie-Bag

I'M STILL A BIT UNSURE ABOUT ALL THIS - WHAT CAN I DO?

There is always help at hand. Your local pet shop or veterinary surgeon will be happy to advise you. Alternatively, you can always call Sherley's direct. There are experts waiting to help you - no query is too big or too small - so please call!

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