



# Worms and your cat



## **Causes and Symptoms**

### **Types of Worms**

Roundworms, Tapeworms, Lungworms, Whipworms and Hookworms. All of these worms can affect your cat and some are a potential hazard to your family's health. Statistics show that 60% of all cats in the UK have worms at any one time.

### **Symptoms**

Mild infestations cause little or no symptoms in a healthy cat; a more severe infestation can cause vomiting, with diarrhoea or constipation, leading to loss of weight and condition. In addition, the presence of worms may weaken your cat's immune system making it more susceptible to other infections.

### **Routes of Infection**

- Ingestion of worm eggs from the soil.
- Ingestion of worm larvae developing in a host animal, e.g. mouse, bird, rabbit, etc.
- Ingestion of infected fleas.
- Primary infection via worms in the mother's milk.

### **Frequency of Worming**

#### **Kittens**

Worming is recommended at 2, 5 and 8 weeks of age and monthly thereafter until your kitten is 6 months old. The vet or nurse will be able to advise you on the best product to use.



## **Adult cats**

Adult cats should be wormed every 3 months (4 times yearly). This is especially important in families with young children to reduce the risk of health problems.

## **Pregnant queens**

These should be wormed around the time of giving birth to prevent transfer of worms via milk. There is no transfer across the placenta in cats, unlike dogs.

## **Treatment Available**

### **Granules (Roundworms and some Tapeworms)**

Tasteless granules which can be mixed in with your cat's food.

### **Tablets (Roundworms and Tapeworms)**

To mix with your cat food or given directly by mouth. Please ask a veterinary nurse to do this free of charge if you find giving tablets difficult.

### **Injection (Tapeworms only)**

This can be given to cats that are difficult to dose, but only treats tapeworm.



## **Spot on (Roundworms or Tapeworms only)**

One of the flea preparations used on the back of the neck also treats roundworms. There is also a spot on preparation that has been developed especially to treat tapeworm in difficult cats.

We require your cat's weight to calculate an accurate dosage of wormer.

Remember worm treatments do not have a preventative action - they only eliminate the worms present at the time of treatment. Regular dosing is necessary to keep your pet healthy, worm free and prevent them from contaminating the environment with eggs.

*For further information please ask at reception.*