

Protecting your pet from internal parasites is crucial for maintaining their health, as well as the health of your family and other pets.

Internal parasites, including but not limited to: roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, heartworms, and giardia, can infect your pet's internal systems, causing a range of health issues from mild discomfort to severe illness, including diarrhea, weight loss, and anemia. These parasites can affect the intestines, lungs, and heart, and some are even transmissible to humans (a concern known as zoonotic potential).

Pets can get infected with intestinal parasites through various means, including:

- Consuming infected soil, water, or feces
  - Eating infected prey like rodents and birds
  - Mother-to-pup transmission during nursing or even before birth
  - Coming into contact with infected fleas for tapeworms

The signs of infestation can vary based on the type of parasite and the severity of the infestation. Common symptoms include:

- Diarrhea, possibly with blood
- Weight loss, despite a healthy appetite
- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Potbellied appearance in puppies or kittens
- Coughing, in the case of heartworms

Preventing internal parasites involves several key strategies:

- Bringing in a stool sample during your pet's regular check-ups allows us to test for some internal parasites and provide the appropriate treatment.
- A small blood sample is needed to test for Heartworm, which we are able to perform in the clinic.
- Administering a monthly heartworm preventive is crucial in areas where heartworm is prevalent. Heartworm is transmitted through bites by infected mosquitoes.
- Based on your pet's lifestyle and our professional assessment, we may recommend routine deworming treatments.
- Keeping your pet's living area clean, disposing of feces promptly, and preventing your pet from drinking standing water can reduce the risk of parasite infection.

For households with multiple pets, it's vital to treat all animals, as parasites can easily spread from one pet to another. Remember, some internal parasites can be transmitted to humans, so following preventive measures also helps protect your family.

If you've noticed any symptoms of internal parasites in your pet or if it's time for their routine fecal exam/heartworm test, please contact us to schedule an appointment. We're here to provide comprehensive care, from diagnosis to treatment, ensuring your pet remains healthy and parasite-free. Our goal is to keep your pet and your family safe from internal parasites through education, prevention, and treatment. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns about internal parasite control or to discuss the best preventive measures for your pet.