

HILLCREST VETERINARY CLINIC
AUG 2009 E-Newsletter



-ADOPTIONS-
"MAMA KITTY" &
TWO MALE KITTENS



**Back to
school!**

Hello everybody! Here we are into the last month of summer. Hope everyone enjoyed the July newsletter on the microchip. It's a great idea and for the peace of mind it provides, it is definitely worth the cost! Parasites regularly affect puppies and kittens, but can also affect your adult pets. With your pets being outside more in the warm weather and the fleas being outside with them this is a great time of year for your pets to get parasites. So, we are going to discuss the different kinds of internal parasites and how to prevent/control them.

PARASITES:

Parasites can cause vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and, even in severe cases, death. I am going to give you a breakdown of some of the most common parasites.

NEMATODES:

We will start with the Nematode class of parasite. Nematodes are a round parasite and the most common parasite in animals. These parasites are usually found in the small intestine, but can also be found in the skin, lungs, kidneys, urinary bladder, nervous tissue and blood.



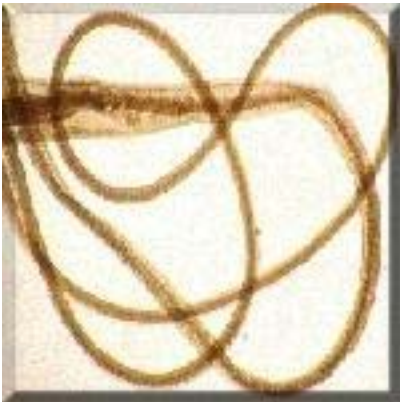
ROUNDWORMS:

Roundworms are found in the small intestines of dogs and cats. They are very common in puppies and kittens, but can also be found in adults if not treated properly as a kitten or puppy. These worms can grow very long, 3 to 18 cm, and when passed they are usually coiled.



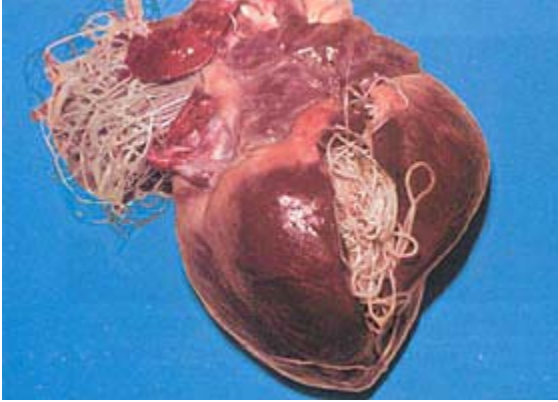
HOOKWORMS:

Hookworms are microscopic and found in the small intestine of cats and dogs. As you can see by their mouthparts they can be very damaging to your pet, causing severe anemia. Like roundworms they are often seen in puppies and kittens, but can also be found in adult animals.



WHIPWORMS:

Whipworms are microscopic and found in the cecum and colon of cats and dogs. They are common in dogs but rarely found in cats. They received their name by the structure of the worm; they are thin on one end and thick on the other end.



HEARTWORMS:

Heartworms are found in both cats and dogs. Pets become infected with heartworms through the heartworm host, a mosquito. The heartworms then grow in the heart and have babies, microfilariae that travel through the bloodstream. The microfilariae in cats are less in number and have a shorter lifespan, so cats do not need tested before they are treated. The microfilariae in dogs are great in number and live longer, so dogs need tested before being treated with heartworm medicine. If they are not tested but have a lot of microfilariae when given the medicine, the microfilariae die and can cause blood clots throughout the bloodstream and lungs.

CESTODES:

The next class of parasites is the Cestodes, which are flat worms. The main cestode that infects cats and dogs is the tapeworm.



TAPEWORMS:

The tapeworm is the most common worm found in the small intestine of the dog and cat. This is true because the pet becomes infected with the tapeworm by ingesting a flea, which acts as the intermediate host. Tapeworms are fairly long, but most tapeworms release proglottids in short chains into the feces. These proglottids look like pieces of rice and often get stuck on the pet's fur on your furniture or bed. (Always nice to wake up to! 😊)

We can check your pet's stool sample for parasites at any time. Please make sure the stool is fresh or refrigerated. We like to let it sit for a few hours but we will be glad to call you with the results. Your pet's yearly exam is also a good time to get the fecal checked. We highly recommend yearly fecal exams.

PARASITE TREATMENT:

We offer 2 different kind of parasite treatment. The first is a one-dose pill, Drontal, which you give at one time. It goes by weight so there may be multiple pills but they are all given at one time. The prices vary depending on weight but can run from \$8-\$53. The second is Panacur. Panacur comes in a powder form, which you mix in food or in a liquid form, which you squirt into your pet's mouth. Panacur is given once daily for 3 consecutive days. Prices also vary on weight but can from \$8-\$25. Both medicines are very effective at controlling all the different kinds

of parasites. Panacur is a little cheaper. We also have a de wormer, Cestex that just controls tapeworms, no other parasite. For all you cat owners, there is a great new product, Profender. Profender is a topical de-wormer that is applied the same way as the topical flea medications and it kills all the parasites. It works great, and is much easier than pilling a cat!! It runs from \$16-\$18.

A great way to prevent and control parasites in dogs is the once monthly heartworm preventative. All 3 brands of heartworm preventative, Heartgard, Interceptor and Advantage Multi control and prevent parasite infestations. In cats, the monthly flea preventative, Advantage Multi controls parasites.

DR. TIDBIT BY DR. AARON POLLOCK:

I hate to say it, but summer is winding down- fall will soon be upon us. With all of the parties, vacations, weddings, celebrations, etc... we may have become complacent with our parasite control. While fleas and ticks are relatively easy to see, internal parasites are not. They can be silent partners until stress or disease strikes, at which time they can be devastating. Every pet should have a fecal exam performed at least once a year. If our pet spends a lot of time outside or is known to be a hunter- we must assume that parasites are present. These animals- if not already on a monthly preventative- should be de wormed regularly. Again- there are several prevention regimens and control options available. Let us provide a strategic parasite control protocol for your pet. Don't wait until the burden is high and symptoms are present.. PREVENT!

WHAT'S NEW ON THE HILL:

We have a couple new faces that we would like you to get to know:

Shannon Leishman joins Jeneane out front as our newest receptionist. She is a big Mountaineer fan, born and raised in good ol' Morgantown. She recently moved to and from Virginia where she was a vet assistant. She has 2 dogs and 1 cat. She is glad to be back in Mo-town. Go Eers!

Michelle Ilardi is a vet assistant. She was born and raised in Morgantown. She is a junior Animal and Nutritional Science and biology major at WVU and is minoring in Italian Studies. She plans on doing a semester abroad in Italy in the spring.

Vanessa Richards is a senior at WVU, majoring in animal and nutritional sciences. She will be applying to vet school this fall and hopes to one day be a veterinarian. She is a native of Morgantown, West Virginia.

ADOPTIONS:

This month one of our kittens got adopted. I would like to thank Melanie Mc Bride for taking one our boys. This leaves us with 2 male kittens, one gray and one black and the mother who is a beautiful black medium haired lap cat. They have all been felv/fiv tested, vaccinated, de wormed and are ready to go!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Animal Friends is having the annual Splash Bash at Marilla pool. This is a great time for you and your pooch. It's the only time of the year that you can take your dog to the pool with you. This year it is Sunday August 30th from 10-4. Come out and have a good time while supporting a good cause.

RECIPE:

This is a great recipe for older pets with teeth problems, or for giving your pet's medication (like a de-wormer).

SOFT PET COOKIES:

3 (2.5oz each) jars of baby food, either beef or chicken

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup dry milk powder

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup Wheat germ or cream of wheat

Combine all ingredients in bowl and mix well. Roll into small balls and place on well-greased cookie sheet. Flatten slightly with a fork. Bake in a preheated 350° oven for 15 minutes until brown. Cool on wire rack. Refrigerate to keep fresh or freeze.

That is all we have for this month's newsletter. If you have any questions about parasites or would like a fecal done on your pet, please feel free to contact us!