

# ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

## Worms!

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

Internal parasites or worms are the number one cause of digestive problems in dogs and cats and are a serious human health hazard.

**ROUNDWORMS** infect 10,000 children a year and 750 of them lose a portion if not all of their sight because of this.

**HOOKWORMS** can migrate under human skin and cause irritating rashes.

**GIARDIA** is the number one intestinal parasite in humans, and dogs and cats can be carriers.

**WHIPWORMS** and **COCCIDIA** cause diarrhea and blood in the stool.

**TAPEWORMS** can cause weight loss and stomach cramps.

Since there are so many parasites that can cause problems for you and your pet, it's best to have a stool sample checked every year so we know which parasites, if any, your pet has, how serious the problem is, and what medications we need to use. It is also best to worm all animals that are kept in the same area, otherwise they will be a constant source of re-infection. Since grocery store worm medications are less effective, have more side effects and may not treat the specific worm your pet has, it is usually a waste of time and money to use them.

If your pet has worms, he may need to be wormed several times to control the problem and then should be rechecked every six months until the parasites are gone. Your pet should then be checked every year afterwards.

### TO CONTROL WORMS IN YOUR PET:

1. Have a veterinarian check a stool sample.
2. Buy appropriate worm medications for all pets that are kept in the contaminated area.
3. Worm all infected pets at the same time.
4. Clean up as much of the contaminated feces as possible from the yard or remove the pet from the infected area for 6 months.
5. Have your pet checked for worms every 6 months until there have been 2 negative samples in a row, then continue to check yearly or any time your pet has diarrhea or weight loss.

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There is a heartworm preventative that also controls roundworms, hookworms and whipworms. If you give this medication every month as directed there is rarely any problem with these parasites.

Fleas and raw meat act as a source of infection for tapeworms. Until you free your pet of fleas and control how much wild game they eat, you may have to worm your pet for tapeworms frequently.

If you have any questions about worms and worm medications, please feel free to call us at the Animal Hospital of Lanesville at 952-3643. 📞