

Intestinal Worms

Many dogs and cats carry roundworms and tapeworms, and occasionally dogs kept in multi-dog kennels will be infected with hookworms. Puppies and kittens pick up infections either from their mothers whilst in the womb, or after birth through the milk. By the time they reach three weeks of age the roundworms are adult and reproducing. Tapeworms are picked up through hunting and from fleas.

Dogs and cats should be wormed as a minimum at least every **three months**. It is prudent to treat animals that are at higher risk of infection (eg: those that roam, hunt, have considerable human contact or are walked in public areas where children play) frequently, ie: monthly, for *Toxocara spp* infections, as this worm can cause quite serious disease in humans.

This practice recommends the following products for effective worm control:

Animals Under Six Months of Age:

Our preferred recommendation is:

- **Advocate** as a single monthly spot-on dose (from seven weeks in puppies and nine weeks in kittens).

Alternative products include:

- **Profender** (cats only) as a single monthly spot-on dose (from eight weeks of age).
- **Drontal/Drontal Puppy** as a single dose every two weeks until twelve weeks of age (**NB:** do **not** use Drontal in kittens under six weeks of age).
- **Panacur** given daily for three days at two weekly intervals until twelve weeks of age.

Adult Cats and Dogs:

From six months of age, dogs and cats should be wormed *at least* every three months. We recommend using one of the following:

- **Profender** (cats only) as a single spot-on dose every three months.
- **Drontal/Drontal Plus** as a single dose every three months.

In addition we recommend:

- **Advocate** as a single monthly spot-on dose (although not effective against tapeworm, should ideally be used in addition to Profender or Drontal as it is effective against many other parasites including fleas, mites and lungworm).

Pregnant Animals:

Some products have not been tested for safety in pregnant animals so we recommend:

- **Profender** can be used in pregnant queens.
- **Drontal/Drontal XL** can be used in pregnant bitches. Ensure the calculated dose is correct.
- **Panacur** is safe in pregnant animals at the following doses:
 - Bitches: daily from day forty of pregnancy to two days post whelping
 - Queens: single dose

Products that should **not** be used include:

- **Advocate**
- **Drontal Cat/Drontal Cat XL**

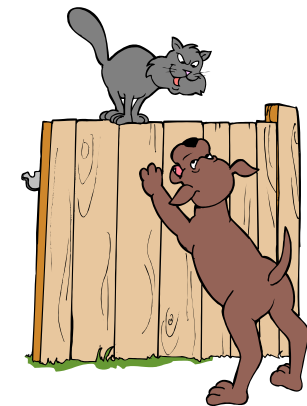
High Risk Animals:

These include animals that roam, hunt, have considerable human contact or are walked in public areas where children play frequently. It is prudent to treat these higher risk animals more frequently. Please ask at reception, where we will be happy to advise an individual protocol for your pet.

Worming Difficulties:

It is not easy to administer worming products to all pets. If you are having problems then we will be pleased to assist you. Please see reception and book an appointment with one of our nurses, who will be happy to assist you. (You only have to pay for the worming medication, the nurse will administer it at no extra cost.)

Problems often arise when giving tablets to cats. We would recommend using **Profender** in **ALL** cats, not just the difficult ones. It is given as a spot-on treatment on the back of the neck – this way you know for sure that they have received the treatment and haven't spat out the tablet when you weren't looking!



Lungworm

This is a potentially life threatening disease and appears to be on the increase in dogs in the UK.

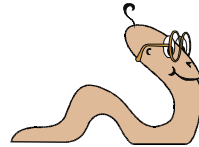
The infective larvae can be present in snails, slugs and sometimes in frogs. They can even be present in the slime trails they leave behind, so there is potential for lungworm transmission in puddles, outdoor drinking bowls or toys/treats left outside in a damp environment.

The symptoms of lungworm can be quite varied and may easily be confused with other diseases:

- Breathing problems, coughing, tiring easily.
- Poor blood clotting, leading to excessive bleeding from minor wounds, nose bleeds, anaemia.
- Behavioural changes, seizures, spinal pain, weight loss, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhoea.

We advise monthly treatment with **Advocate** in all dogs to prevent lungworm.

Lungworm in cats (caused by a different organism) is relatively common, but most cases are not clinically important. Heavy infections may cause breathing problems and coughing. Monthly treatment with **Advocate** should prevent symptomatic infections developing, although alternative products may be better once an infection has already been established.



Quick Reference Guide



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