



PARASITES: RISK AND PREVENTION

Here is a brief listing of some of the parasites and diseases that can affect you and your family, and how they can be prevented

INTESTINAL PARASITES:

- Dogs and cats are frequently exposed to intestinal parasite eggs and must be on either a monthly preventative or a routine deworming schedule
 - Going outside
 - Sniffing/eating dirt
 - Licking paws
- Intestinal parasites cause
 - Diarrhea
 - Vomiting
 - Dull coat and skin
 - Failure to thrive
- This category of parasites includes:
 - Hookworms
 - Roundworms
 - Whipworms
 - Coccidia
 - Giardia
 - Roundworms and hookworms are a public health concern, because they can cause serious diseases in children, including permanent blindness
 - Decreasing the population of roundworms and hookworms in our pets will also decrease the parasite population in the environment

HEARTWORM DISEASE:

- Heartworms are tiny worm-like parasites that are transmitted by mosquitoes, travel through the bloodstream, and lodge themselves in the heart and lungs
- They cause clinical signs in dogs that include coughing, lethargy, breathing problems, and heart failure
- Symptoms in the cat can be very vague and may include vomiting, coughing or even sudden death
- Surprisingly, about 25% of the cats that are diagnosed with heartworm are indoor only!
- There are two ways of preventing heartworm disease in dogs and cats.
- One is to give them a monthly heartworm preventative by mouth.
- The other is to apply a topical liquid to their skin once a month.

FLEAS:

- Fleas are often found on dogs and cats, even if they are indoors the majority of the day
- Fleas are brought in by a friend's dog, a person's shoes or even left on the doormat by a stray cat in the neighborhood
- Once in your house, fleas must be effectively treated on all of your pets and in the environment, prevention is often easier and more economical than treatment
- One effective preventative measure is to use a routine flea-control treatment

*** Never use a dog flea preventative on a cat. Toxicity occurs very quickly, and can cause seizures and death. We strongly recommend discussing any other flea prevention options with us before use ***

TICKS:

- Ticks are a common problem here in New England.
- They are known to carry and transmit lyme disease, anaplasma, ehrlichia and other diseases.
- Annual blood tests can detect exposure to some of these parasites, but prevention of tick bites is key.
- Ticks pose a potential health risk to you, if they are being carried into your house by your dog or cat.
- One effective preventative measure is to use a routine tick-control treatment