



Village Veterinary Practice Newsletter

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WARNING: Worms Can Hurt Your Pet!

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Hours

M—Th: 7:45am—5:30pm
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Call for Saturdays
House Calls Available

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That cute little potbelly that many puppies seem to have could be caused by worms! Most dogs and cats acquire some type of intestinal parasite during their lifetime, and these worms can not only be annoying, but can cause debilitating medical problems, especially in young animals. It is important to remove these parasites for the sake of your pet, and also because humans can become infected.

Roundworms are probably the most common intestinal parasite that infects companion animals. According to Dr. Allan Paul, a veterinary parasitologist at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana, "Most parasite eggs require a minimum temperature in order to develop into an actively infectious state. For this reason, they are most likely to be spread during the spring and summer."

Roundworm eggs are excreted in the feces in dogs and cats. They are spread when animals come in contact with the feces or soil. These worms can also be transmitted across the placenta to puppies before they are born and spread from mother cats to kittens through infected milk.

Once they develop into their adult form, roundworms live in the intestine and feed off the food the dog or cat has eaten. They are very prolific. One female can lay up to 200,000 eggs per day. This means that a large number of worms can develop in a short period.

Infestation can cause diarrhea, vomiting, and the characteristic potbelly seen in many puppies. A rough hair coat and generally unhealthy appearance are other signs. These worms are usually not a serious problem for adult animals, but can be life-threatening to puppies and kittens that may experience severe dehydration as a result of vomiting and diarrhea.

Hookworms and whipworms are other common parasites in dogs and cats. Instead of feeding off digesting material in the intestine, these parasites attach to the intestinal lining and feed by sucking the blood of the infected animal. A heavy infestation of either of these parasites can cause severe anemia.

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WARNING: Worms Can Hurt Your Pet!

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FACT:

15% of household potting soil contains roundworm eggs.

The Veterinary Record
February 2006

Hookworms are more common than whipworms. Hookworms feed at several places in the intestine each day, injecting an anti-coagulant that prevents clotting. This means that after the hookworm detaches from the intestinal wall, that spot continues to bleed, which can cause a black, tarry-looking stool. Hookworms can be transmitted through oral ingestion of eggs in fecal material and also by penetrating the skin directly.

Your veterinarian can diagnose roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms by doing a fecal examination in which the eggs of the worm are identified. The worms can easily be removed by the administration of a dewormer prescribed by your veterinarian.

It is important to treat intestinal parasites in your pet because they can be transmitted to humans. Roundworms and hookworms do not mature in the intestine in human beings. Instead, they remain in an immature larval state and migrate throughout the tissues of the body. They can cause liver and lung damage, skin rashes, and even blindness and permanent neurological damage. Children are most at risk because they may play in infested areas and may ingest infected material. The best way to prevent infection is to make sure your pets are parasite free and your children always clean up properly after playing outside.

To prevent problems with intestinal parasites for your pet and for you, consult your local veterinarian on deworming and parasite control.

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Remember, each monthly dose of SENTINEL prevents heartworm disease, controls intestinal parasites and prevents flea infestations!

World Rabies Day—September 28, 2011



The rabies virus continues to be a global problem claiming more than 55,000 human lives annually with the vast majority of mortality occurring in Asia and Africa. Here in the United States, the rabies virus is the cause of death for 1-2 people each year. In response to this continued global issue, a group of researchers and professionals formed the Global Alliance for Rabies Control in 2006, and set forth to create awareness and educate the world about this deadly, but easily preventable disease. In September of 2007, the Global Alliance for Rabies Control held the inaugural campaign for World Rabies Day and saw a tremendous response in participation from almost half a million people throughout 74 countries. This year, World Rabies Day takes place on September 28th.

The rabies virus is secreted in the saliva of an infected animal and most often transmitted through the that animal's bite. However, the virus can be transmitted when the saliva of an infected animal comes in contact with an open cut on the victim.

Once the virus enters the body, it travels along the nerves to the brain, attacking the nervous system

until fatality results. Infected animals can show a variety of clinical signs that include fearfulness, aggression, excessive drooling, difficulty swallowing, staggering and seizures. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, "there were more than 6,700 cases of reported animal rabies in the U.S. in 2009."

The American Veterinary Medical Association also reports that cats have become the most common domestic animal in the United States to be infected with rabies because more cats are going unvaccinated. Exposure to rabid wild animals outdoors, or even a rabid bat that gets indoors, puts these unvaccinated cats at a higher risk for becoming infected with this preventable disease.

You can do your part to help rabies control by simply keeping your pets current on their rabies vaccines. Not only are you protecting your pets from a deadly virus, you are protecting yourself and your family both from a medical and legal standpoint.



Did you know...

Cook County, DuPage County, Kane County and Will County Animal Ordinances mandate that EVERY DOG AND CAT over 4 months of age shall be inoculated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian.



Any unvaccinated dog or cat that bites a human must be quarantined for a 10 day rabies observation. The quarantine must take place at a facility where a veterinarian is on the premises each day. The pet owner is not only responsible for all veterinary and boarding fees, but will also incur a fine by the county for failing to keep the offending pet vaccinated.

Q & A

Why does my dog sit down then proceed to drag his rear-end around the perimeter of my dining room table? This is very gross not to mention a little embarrassing when I have company over.

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This is a very common problem among our canine patients.

Dogs have two anal glands within the wall of their rectum. Each time your dog has a firm and formed bowel movement, the contents of the anal glands are released. If the contents of these glands are not expelled during the defecation process, the glands begin to fill up causing the dog to feel uncomfortable pressure. This is about the time you may see your dog scooting around the dining room table, and about the time you need to bring man's best friend to see a

VVP technician to have his anal glands expressed.

The longer the secretion remains within the anal gland, the thicker the secretion becomes. As the contents thicken, the gland becomes more difficult to express and the potential for an infection or anal gland abscess to occur arises.

Some dogs never have problems with their anal glands, but others may need to have their glands expressed on a regular basis. For dogs needing more frequent expressions, switching to a dog

food that is higher in fiber or adding a small amount of canned pumpkin to the diet may help bulk up the stools so the glands can express on their own—though this doesn't work on all patients.

If you see your pet scooting, there is a reason. Most of the time a simple anal sac expression is needed, but allergies and intestinal parasites can cause scooting as well. If your pet is scooting his rear-end, VVP will get to the "bottom" of the problem.



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<u>The Village Veterinary Practice Vision</u>
Village Veterinary Practice was founded with the belief that companion animals deserve the best quality of life possible. Our vision is inspired by our patients, the devotion of their human families and the commitment of our veterinarians. It is sustained by the contributions of our compassionate, knowledgeable and dedicated staff and built upon a strong tradition of providing unsurpassed veterinary care for companion animals.
<u>The Village Veterinary Practice Mission</u>
Village Veterinary Practice was established to care for your pet as a family member. By utilizing the latest medical advances, sound guidance and desire, we strive to make the family pet bond an enjoyable, healthy and life enriching experience.