



INTESTINAL PARASITES OF CATS

TAPEWORMS



Tapeworm segments

- Tapeworms are carried by fleas and small mammals (rabbits/mice).
- Your cat becomes infected with tapeworms when it ingests the flea or small mammal that is carrying the tapeworm.
- Diagnosis of tapeworms is made most commonly by the owner seeing the segments of the worm in their pet's stool, or on its fur or bedding.

ROUNDWORMS

- Roundworms are very common in young kittens. 90-100% of all kittens may be infected with roundworms.
- kittens can be infected directly from their mothers, either through the placenta or in the milk.



Adult Roundworms

- The female roundworm lays eggs which are passed in the feces. Your cat can also get roundworms by ingesting these eggs.
- Small rodents may also ingest the eggs. Your cat could be infected by consuming an infected rodent.
- Roundworms look like spaghetti, and can be very long and coiled.
- ROUNDWORM EGGS CAN BE INGESTED BY HUMANS (ESPECIALLY CHILDREN). THEY CAN CAUSE SERIOUS DISEASE.**

HOOKWORMS



Hookworm egg magnified 400 times

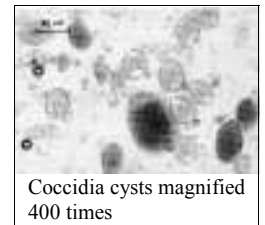
- Hookworms are very small, they can not be seen in a cat's stool.
- We diagnose hookworms by finding the female's eggs with a microscope.
- Hookworms can be passed to a kitten through the placenta and also from the mother's milk.
- Cats can also get hookworms by ingesting the egg's that are passed in the stool of an infected cat. The larvae of the hookworm

can even penetrate the skin and cause infection.

-HOOKWORM LARVAE CAN PENETRATE HUMAN'S SKIN AND CAUSE SERIOUS ILLNESS.

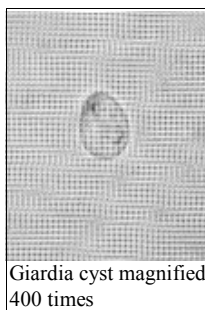
COCCIDIA

- Coccidia is another protozoal parasite that can infect cats.
- Cysts can be passed from an infected dog in their stool.
- Your cat may be infected by consuming these cysts.
- Small rodents may ingest these cysts. Your cat could be infected by consuming these rodents.
- We diagnose coccidia by finding the cysts in a stool sample with a microscope.



Coccidia cysts magnified 400 times

GIARDIA



Giardia cyst magnified 400 times

- Giardia is a microscopic, protozoal parasite.
- Cats are exposed to the "cysts" that are passed from an infected dog's stool.
- Giardia can also be found in standing water or other very damp places.
- We diagnose giardia by finding it in a stool sample with a microscope.
- HUMANS CAN ALSO BE EXPOSED TO GIARDIA FROM WATER SOURCES OR FROM IMPROPERLY HANDLING CAT FECAL MATERIAL.**

-DIFFERENT WORMS ARE TREATED DIFFERENT WAYS. WE OFTEN NEED TO USE A WORMER MORE THAN ONCE TO EFFECTIVELY KILL THE WORMS. IF YOU HAVE OTHER CATS THEY MAY ALSO NEED TO BE DE-WORMED .

