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Worcs.
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Why do we need to worm our pet?

Worming both dogs and cats is very important. Many of the species of worms that can be picked up can also be passed to humans and have significant health risks.

Roundworm infections can be seen in people, in the majority of cases causing minimal problems or symptoms. However, there is a risk from the larvae of the roundworm which can, during its development, cause a cyst at the back of the eye damaging eyesight.

There are a variety of tapeworm species, one in particular of which can pose significant risk to people. Some worms we treat for are generally seen abroad but there is a risk of transmission in this country. These include hookworms, whipworms and heartworms.

Worms can cause a number of problems in dogs including bloating in young puppies, diarrhoea, weight loss, vomiting and rarely can even cause intestinal blockages and potentially death.

These worms are generally spread through eggs passed in infected animal's faeces. Once in the environment, depending on the species, they can survive and be ingested after long time periods. Regular worming treatment will not permanently protect against worms in the same way flea treatment prevents against fleas – it works by killing the worms in the system over 24-48 hours then leaving the system. This means a pet can be reinfected the same day, but if the correct worming schedule is carried out the worms will be killed again before the animal begins to pass eggs and continue the cycle.

Lungworm is an increasing problem in dogs that are prone to eating snails, slugs and frogs. It can lead to coughing, breathing difficulty, bleeding disorders, vomiting, abdominal pain and even heart failure. If your dog is prone to eating any of these animals it is advised you book to see a veterinary surgeon for a health check.

MANY OVER THE COUNTER WORMERS SOLD IN PET SHOPS AND SUPERMARKETS ARE EXTREMELY INEFFECTIVE AND ARE POORLY TOLERATED BY DOGS AND CATS.

**If you need any other information or wish to discuss any of the issues here further, please contact one of the nursing team at the Vale Veterinary Group Ltd, Kidderminster
01562 822692**