



NVH Pawprints

Newtown Veterinary Hospital

September 2007

Intestinal Parasites, Pets and People

By: Dr. Scott Rosenbloom V.M.D.



Dogs and cats can serve as unwilling hosts for many types of intestinal parasites, including tapeworms, hookworms, roundworms, and whipworms, plus a few species of single-cellular organisms such as coccidian and giardia. Dogs and cats of any age are susceptible to infection by intestinal parasites. Though not every pet will show outward physical signs, some animals will develop symptoms that can include loss of appetite, diarrhea (sometimes with blood), weight loss, and overall poor health. Puppies and kittens are particularly at risk from parasites and can develop more serious problems including malnutrition, poor growth, anemia, and even death.

Identifying intestinal parasites in our pets is also important because, under some conditions, these parasites can be transmitted to people. Young children, pregnant women, and immuno-compromised people

are particularly at risk. If ingested, some species of roundworms (esp. *Toxocara* and *Baylisascaris* species) can produce larvae that leave the gastrointestinal tract and migrate through the body causing damage to internal organs along the way. This syndrome, known as *visceral larva migrans*, affects several thousand people in the U.S. each year. *Ocular larva migrans*, a form of larvae can even infect people by directly penetrating the skin. Perhaps you've heard stories of the unfortunate beach-goer who buried his or her feet in the sand and later developed a rash? This syndrome, called *cutaneous larva migrans*, manifests as progressive, itchy, "creeping" skin eruptions and is caused by contact with hookworm larvae living in contaminated sandy soil (beaches, sandboxes, etc.).

Monthly medications such as Sentinel and Interceptor, are effective in controlling hookworms, roundworms, and whipworms, as well as pre-

venting heartworm disease. In addition, sentinel is also effective in preventing flea infestation. These medications should be considered your first line of defense against intestinal parasites. Because the eggs of some parasites can survive in the environment for long periods of time (under appropriate conditions, whipworm eggs can remain fertile for 7 years!) we strongly recommend that monthly preventatives are used year-round.

A simple and effective way to detect infection with intestinal parasites is through a fecal examination performed by your veterinarian. When an animal becomes infected, the parasites reproduce within the dog or cat's GI tract and shed eggs or larvae in the feces. These can then be identified microscopically allowing for appropriate treatment.

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

<i>180 Amazing Cat Facts</i>	2
<i>News from the Net</i>	2
<i>Inside Story</i>	2
<i>Inside Story</i>	3
<i>More News from the Net</i>	3
<i>Inside Story</i>	4
<i>Inside Story</i>	4

Fun Animal Facts from the Internet

- An elephant can be pregnant for up to two years.
- A rhinoceros' horn is made of hair.
- Elephants and camels both have four knees.
- When an armadillo is frightened it jumps straight into the air.
- A polar bears' fur is not white, it's clear.
- Camel's milk does not curdle.

Ready, Set, Exercise By: Kristin A. Gant /Cat Fancy January 2007

Cats and exercise. Two words that don't seem to mix, especially since cats can sleep 20 to 22 hours per day, according to Joseph Taboada, a veterinarian and associate dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University.

Nonetheless, owners can facilitate feline exercise. "From a health standpoint, increasing activity certainly has the same benefits for cats that it does for us," Taboada says. To improve your cat's muscles, joints, bones and psychological well-being, implement these

18 activity-bolstering techniques.

1. DVD/Video: pop in a cat-gear DVD featuring birds or darting dogs.
 2. Playmates
 3. Remote-control Mouse
- Continued on page**

180 Amazing Cat Facts By: American Media Mini Mags, INC



- Not all kittens grow up to be friendly pets. Scientists say about 15% of kittens resist socialization. Interestingly, such animals are usually characterized with an extremely slow and quiet temperament, which can be observed shortly after birth. In fact, it may be inherited.
- Missy, a Siamese, was dancing on her owner's home computer in Los

Angeles when she accidentally punched in a secret five-letter code that accessed a business memory bank - and erased \$50,000 worth of account files! A company spokesman said, "I guess we'll have to revamp our whole system."

- Though no one quibbles with a cat's ability to predict earthquakes, one cat should've been more in touch with her

own instincts. Spot was sunning herself on the window ledge of a California apartment building when suddenly she was shaken from her perch by an earthquake. She fell 10 stories and, astonishingly, her only injury was a broken leg.

- Recent studies suggest that the color and length of cat's hair are unrelated to its allergic potential.

"I've met many thinkers and many cats, but the wisdom of cats is infinitely superior."

- Hippolyte Taine

"Every boy should have two things: a dog, and a mother willing to let him have one."

- Anonymous

"The dog represents all that is best in man."

- Etienne Charlet



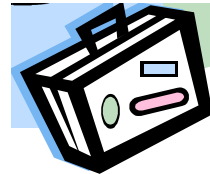
News From the Net By: Ananova

Wee Dog Problems

Two top sniffer dogs have been fired - for urinating on luggage and sexually harassing women.

Mok and Lai, strays retrained as police dogs, won praise for finding drugs. But some passengers com-

plained at their antisocial habits, reports the Daily Mirror.



Mok's former handler at Chiang Rai airport in Thai-

land said: "He liked to pee on luggage while searching for drugs.

"He also liked to hold on to women's legs. They were strays so their manners were worse than foreign breeds."

The dogs now work on a farm herding chickens and pigs.

Slim Down for Health By: Cathy M. Rosenthal Dog Fancy 2007

According to the National Academy of Sciences, one of every four dogs in the U.S. is obese, or about 15 million dogs. Sharing our super-sized lifestyles, these dogs are becoming overweight for the same reasons as we are: overeating, sedentary routines, and stress. Medications, such as prednisone and phenobarbital, and health conditions, like hypo-

thyroidism, can also increase a dog's appetite and weight. Owners of portly dogs may blame genetics, and perhaps rightly so. Terriers, Cocker Spaniels, retrievers, and hounds are a few types of dogs prone to weight gain. Dogs who have been spayed or neutered can also put on weight. Whether it's a sedentary lifestyle, too many treats, or

medical problems, packing on the pounds can lead to serious health troubles for dogs. Studies show that dogs who are even slightly overweight may have shorter life spans than their leaner counterparts, by as many as two years. Hefty dogs are also more at risk during surgery and more susceptible to heart, lung, kidney and liver problems.

Take Steps to Prevent Dognapping By: Dog Fancy Oct 2007

Dognappings around the country have prompted animal organizations and training experts to caution pet lovers never to let their guard down. Both the American Kennel Club and the Humane Society of the United States say there's no data to support that some breeds are at higher risk than others.

"All dogs are equally vulnerable," says Daisy Okas, assistant vice president of communications at the

AKC in New York. She points out that pets are stolen for a variety of reasons, including illegal dog-fighting activities, irresponsible breedings, animal research, burglary scams, or simply for profit.

"When it comes to stealing dogs for pure profit, smaller dogs or very young puppies are most at risk because, of their size," says Okas, referring to the Yorkshire Terrier puppies who were stolen at gunpoint earlier this

year in Los Angeles by thieves posing as prospective buyers.

"Also, never tie up your dog to a post while getting a coffee or 'just running into the store,'" Okas cautions. "And always investigate if your dog starts barking."

For more tips on how to prevent your pet from being stolen, visit

www.hsus.org

- Sandy Robins



More News from the Net By: Ananova

Wolf makes friends with dinner

A wolf captured in Albania has become best friends with a donkey.

The donkey was put in the wolf's cage as part of its feeding program.

But instead of hunting it

down and eating it, the wolf befriended the donkey, reports Sky News.



The two animals have since become inseparable, living together in the cage for the last 10 days.

Curious villagers and local news reporters have been flocking to see the unlikely couple for themselves.

The wolf was captured four months ago in the northern Albanian mountains.

"The bird of paradise alights only upon the hand that does not grasp."

- John Berry

"The average dog is a nicer person than the average person."

- Andrew A. Rooney

"Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later."

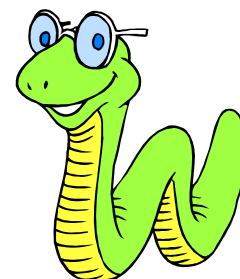
- Mary Bly

Intestinal Parasites continued from page 1

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the companion Animal Parasite Council (APC) recommend 2-4 fecal exams for your pet each year. For families that include young children, elderly family members, or anyone receiving chemotherapy or other medications that affect the

immune system, this is especially important. At the very least, a fecal sample should be submitted at the time of your pet's annual exam. Similarly, if your pet is showing signs of gastrointestinal distress, its best to make an appointment for an examination and bring in a stool sample to be analyzed

by our laboratory. For more information, or for specific recommendations for the health and safety of your pets and family, please contact your veterinarian.





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CALENDAR

September 1st-3rd - CLOSED for Labor Day Weekend

Sept 8th - Barb Pacitti's 5th Anniversary

September 15th - PET FAIR

September 19th - Jen's 1st Anniversary

September 30th - Dr Volkman's 11th Anniversary

Our four-legged friends who have passed away

Beni Sooy, Taffeta Todd, Barkley Wertz, Pickle Brecher, Kit Kat Peck, Freddy Ralston, Snickers Caraccio, Flyer Wolverton, Libby Miller, Toby warren, Shadow Miller, Brandy Keenan, Cleo Keim, Stinky Piazza, Sasha Stewart, Max



Sanders, Pumpkin Bertles, Elwood Chuck, Napoleon Davis, Jack Corley, Payton Masters, Bear Eckhart, Scout Lentz, Catelina Trevisani, Fiona (Sundance Kennels).

We Will Miss Them All



Pet Fair 2007
Saturday
September 15th
10am to 4pm



Come one, come all to our 7th annual pet fair held right on our grounds! There will be different rescue and adoption agencies, free refreshments, raffles, a face painter, Warminster K9 Unit, an agility demonstration and more!!!

Our Pet Parade will be held at 3pm!

Please check our website for more details

www.newtownvet.com

Ready, Set, Exercise continued from page 1

4. Food placement: If cats must climb to obtain food, they will.
5. Obstacle Course: create courses with cat tunnels and boards propped up on furniture, and use feather teasers to entice your cat along.
6. Laser toy: the moving red dot is a feline favorite.
7. Food-dispensing toys.
8. Tricks: Cats can learn many tricks, such as jumping over objects.
9. Paper

10. Cat-activity Mat.
11. Computer screensaver: Choose one featuring mice scampering about the screen.



12. Walks: using a harness.
13. Plastic milk rings: everyday items such as milk rings and foil can spur activity. To avoid mishaps, always super-

vised your cat when it plays with such items.

14. Catnip.
15. Cat tree or perch: Place the tree near a window overlooking a birdfeeder.
16. Cat sacks
17. Battery-powered ball: This toy keeps the exercise rolling.
18. Your imagination.

A little extra mental stimulation and physical activity will do wonders for your cat. And you will feel better as an owner.

