



Veterinary Hospital

5078 Williamsport Pike Suite N Martinsburg WV Phone: 304-270-1063 Fax: 304-270-1063

Gastrointestinal Parasites

Most likely your pet will be infected with a gastrointestinal parasite sometime during its life. Since most dogs and cats are treated like a member of the family it is important to keep them healthy and free of parasites. Parasites can affect your pet in a variety of ways, from irritation to a life threatening condition and can easily infect you or your family.

Protecting Your Family

Parasites may be found in **soil, sand boxes, grass, and stagnant water**. These parasites that are released through an animal's feces can live in an environment for months. To best protect your family:

- See your Veterinarian regularly and have your pet's stool sample checked every 6 months.
- Continue monthly heartworm preventative year around
- Remove your pet's stool from the yard as often as possible
- Practice good hygiene, wash your hands often.
- Don't allow your dog to lick your family in the face
- Don't allow children to walk around barefoot

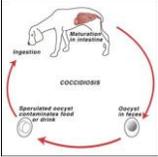
Symptoms of gastrointestinal parasites

- Acute vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Poor hair coat
- Decreased appetite
- Weight loss
- Distended abdomen
- Visual parasites in stool



Veterinary Hospital

5078 Williamsport Pike Suite N Martinsburg WV Phone: 304-270-1063 Fax: 304-270-1063

Parasite		Facts	Affects Humans
Roundworms		<p> The most common intestinal parasite and the <u>most likely to infect a human</u></p> <p> Looks like spaghetti</p> <p> Most puppies and kittens are infected</p> <p> Signs: vomiting, diarrhea, distended belly</p>	X
Hookworms	 	<p> Attaches to the wall of the intestine using sharp teeth</p> <p> Most puppies and kittens are infected</p> <p> Present in soil</p> <p> Penetrates skin through feet and belly of humans</p>	X
Tapeworms		<p> usually 6 inches or more long</p> <p> transmitted when dog or cat ingests an infected flea</p>	
Whipworms		<p> Adult worms embed their heads into the tissue of the intestine and suck blood</p> <p> Ingested during grooming</p> <p> contaminated soil</p>	X
Giardia		<p> common in shelters</p> <p> contaminated water and grooming fur that is contaminated with infected feces</p>	X
Coccidia		<p> common among puppies and kittens</p> <p> contaminated water and grooming fur that is contaminated with infected feces</p>	X



Veterinary Hospital