



# Health topics

## Dogs and cats

DEWORMING YOUR PET IS NECESSARY

FEBRUARY 2016

# Deworming, why and how often?

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Their mind focused on the daily occupations many pet owners forget to regularly deworm their dog or cat. Is this really without consequences ?  
Here are **10 good reasons** to **IMMEDIATELY** deworm your pet.

### Reason N°1

You grown up pet hasn't been dewormed for more than 3 months. The recommended **MINIMAL frequency** of deworming in adult dogs and cats is once per season, so **every 3 months** (applicable for pets with outdoor access).

### Reason N°2

Your pet is less than 6 months old and he hasn't been dewormed for more than a month !

Puppies and kittens are practically all infested, mostly due to their weaker immune system. They easily get contaminated by the mother or other pets. These parasites take nutriments away from them, weaken their digestive tube and may induce growth retardation.

Recommended frequency for deworming in **puppies and kittens is once every month !**

### Reason N°3

If you have children under 3 years old, as these are more vulnerable for the same reasons as for puppies and kittens. They stand closer to the ground, put their hands often in their mouth, often get their faces licked by the pets. These also are factors that increase risks of contamination. Recommended frequency for deworming of your pets is then **once a month, or at least every 2 months !**

### Reason N°4

You **are coming back from Holidays** in South of France, in a **mediterranean country, in USA** (upon other destinations) with your dog or cat, treat him with a product active against heartworm.

Some species of mosquitoes in these areas can transmit larves of a parasit that infest your pet's heart (**Dirofilaria**).

### Reason N°5

Your pet suffers a chronic health issue or just underwent an important procedure. This health problem will decrease his immunity which may enable parasites to proliferate in his system and worsen his condition.

### Reason N°6

You just picked up your pet from a stay in a **boarding kennel for holidays**.

### Reason N°7

Your dog or cat recently had **fleas**.

Fleas can carry eggs of tenia (tapeworm). By scratching and licking himself, your pet swallows fleas, especially after they have been killed by the flea's treatment. Once the tenia's eggs are in the digestive tube of your pet, they can hatch and the parasit can develop.

Best is to deworm your **pets 3 weeks after the infestation by fleas has been resolved**.

### Reason N°8

You suffer chronic health problems yourself or are immunosuppressed.

Deworm your pet **once a month !**

### Reason N°9

Your queen or bitch is **pregnant**, respectively just **delivered her litter**.

It is recommended to deworm within 15 days before delivery, then between 15 days and 1 month after the date of birth to protect the babies.

### Reason N°10

You have a **kitchen garden** and your pet may have access to it when he goes out.

Stools from your animals are infectious if they are infested by larves and eggs of parasites...

Deworm your pet **once a month !**

# ECHINOCOCCOSIS, WHAT ARE THE DANGERS

Echinococcosis is a serious severe disease that can **potentially be fatal for humans**. Foxes, dogs and sometimes even cats can spread this parasite in your environment. You, your relatives or your children can accidentally get infected.

**House carnivores** (dogs, cats) are vectors. They get infected by eating small rodents, or raw organs of infected herbivores (cow, sheep, goat). They usually only get infected by the adult form of the echinococcus (small tenia or tape worm) and practically never develop symptoms. They are called asymptomatic carriers (eventually in case of really severe infestation they can show diarrhea and weight loss).

**In humans** in contrary the consequences following the ingestion of echinococcus eggs are dramatic. The hatch in the intestine and larvae **migrate to colonise the liver**. Depending of the type of echinococcus, they will create a **large cyst** or an **invasive pseudo tumor**. Liver function becomes impaired inducing a severe disbalance which, without appropriate treatment, can be fatal. In some cases the parasite can even infect the lungs or the brain which makes the treatment much more difficult.

The biggest challenge for doctors in order to treat this parasitic disease early enough is to actually suspect it. Especially since the evolution of the disease is very slow and can spread over 5 to 15 years. Symptoms are not very specific and can be interpreted as symptoms of more classic digestive problems.

## Prevention is definitely the best strategy !

It is based on **two actions** : regularly **deworming** of pets who have an outdoor access and **appropriate behavior** in contaminated areas :

- Collect dog's stools in areas at risk (public and kitchen gardens, etc ...), **do not throw them away in compost !!!!**
- Clean thoroughly fruits, mushrooms, salad and vegetables collected outdoors
- Protect your kitchen garden
- Freezing does not kill echinococcus eggs, cooking does !
- It is not recommended to feed dogs and cats with offal
- Put gloves when gardening

## IN SUMMARY

**DEWORM YOUR PET WILL PROTECT HIM FROM INTESTINAL PARASITES (WORMS) AND WILL PROTECT YOU OF POSSIBLE CONTAMINATIONS.**

**ASK YOUR VET TO GET A PRODUCT SUITABLE TO THE NEEDS AND LIFE STYLE OF YOUR PET!**

**WITHOUT VETERINARY ADVICE YOU WILL INVEST MONEY IN A PRODUCT THAT MIGHT NOT OFFER THE APPROPRIATE PROTECTION WHICH CAN RESULT IN AN INEFFECTIVE PROTECTION BOTH FOR YOU AND YOUR PET!**

