

KITTEN CARE 101: PARASITES



Do all kittens have worms?

Intestinal parasites are common in kittens, and the most common source of roundworm infection in kittens is the mother's milk.

Did you know?

- Microscopic examination of a stool sample detects worm eggs.
- Cats remain susceptible to re-infection throughout their lives and periodic deworming is recommended for cats that go outdoors.
- **Tapeworms** are one of the most common intestinal parasites from cats swallowing fleas.
- Be sure that any flea product you use is labeled safe for kittens! Many flea control products safe on adult cats are unsafe to use on kittens less than four months old.
- Start preventatives once per month as early as six weeks.
- The most effective products are available only by veterinary prescription.

What about ear mites?

Ear mites are tiny parasites that live in the ear canal and are common in litters of kittens.

- Common signs are violent and persistent scratching of the ears, appearing **dirty, black material in the ear canal**.
- Determined by taking black material from the ear canal and examining it with a microscope.



KITTEN CARE 101: PARASITES



Do kittens get heartworm?

Heartworms are a blood-borne parasite called *Dirofilaria immitis* that reside in the heart or adjacent large blood vessels of infected animals. Heartworms are caused when an infected mosquito bites a cat.

- A heartworm antibody test or heartworm antigen test are the most helpful in diagnosing the disease in cats.
- Veterinarians now strongly recommend that all cats receive year-round once monthly heartworm preventative.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Owning a pet can be a rewarding experience, but it is also a responsibility that lasts the lifetime of the animal. Got questions or want to schedule an appointment? Give us a call at (919) 380-1157. We look forward to watching your kitten grow into a happy, healthy cat!



Prevention is your best bet for a healthy pet and peace of mind.

Talk to a member of our staff or your Lake Pine veterinarian about
vaccinating your best friend today!

Not sure if your pet's shots are current? Give us a call at (919) 380-1157.