

# Worms and your Cat!

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There are several different sorts of worms that can infect your cat. In a healthy cat, it is usually impossible to tell if they have a small number of worms. However, if left to multiply, a heavy worm infestation can cause sickness, diarrhoea, weight loss and weaken your cat's immune system.

It is therefore important to treat your cat to get rid of any worms it may have picked up on a regular basis. Adult cats should be wormed every 3 months. The vets and nurses at your practice can recommend a specific worming programme based around your cat's lifestyle and habits.

The dosage for the worming treatments prescribed by the vet is based on the weight and age of your cat. If giving your cat a tablet is tricky, there are easy to use spot on treatments (only available at your vets) that treats roundworms and tapeworms!

**Worming treatments should always be obtained from your vet** and not bought from pet shops, supermarkets and other outlets. Even though this can seem the cheaper option, they are not effective and also are not specific to your cats lifestyle, weight and age.

The main 2 types of worms which affect cats are roundworm and tapeworm.

## It's a Jungle out there!

The most common species of roundworm can also infect people. It is therefore important to keep up to date with worming regime's.

Children are the most likely to be infected and once the worms spread throughout the body, they can affect the eyes and cause blindness.

Tapeworms are pale in colour and have flat segments that can look like a grain of rice. Cats get tapeworms by swallowing fleas whilst they groom themselves or when hunting for rodents.

**For more information on parasites, this site is a great source; [www.itsajungle.co.uk/](http://www.itsajungle.co.uk/)**