

Consultations are by appointment only. Please call our reception team on 01302 534999.

Consultation times

Mon – Fri
9:00am – 11:30am
1:00pm – 1:50pm
3:00pm – 4:30pm
5:30pm – 7:30pm

Saturday
9:00am – 11:50am

Nurse Clinics

Mon, Wed and Fri
11:30am – 12:30pm
4:30pm – 5:10pm

Offers

**RECOMMEND
A FRIEND
AND BOTH
RECEIVE
£10 OFF
YOUR
NEXT BILL**

**10-20%
OFF**

**ALL BILLS WHEN
YOU JOIN THE
HEALTHY PET CLUB**

**LUNGWORM
PREVENTION
INCLUDED IN
MONTHLY
DIRECT DEBIT**

PARASITE SPECIAL LUNGWORM



The lungworm *Angiostrongylus vasorum* is a parasite that infects dogs. The adult of this particular lungworm lives in the heart and major blood vessels supplying the

lungs, where it can cause many problems. Left untreated, the infection can often be fatal.

The lungworm parasite is carried by slugs and snails. The problem arises when dogs purposefully or accidentally eat these common garden pests when rummaging through undergrowth, eating grass, drinking from puddles or outdoor water bowls, or pick them up from their toys.

Foxes can also become infected with the lungworm, and have been implicated in the spread of the parasite across the country.

There are two main problems caused by dogs becoming infected with lungworm:

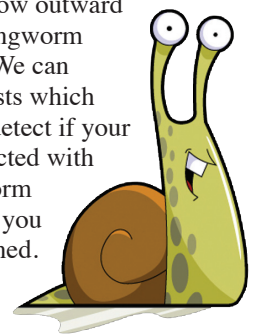
- Infection with lungworm can cause serious health problems in dogs, and is often fatal if not diagnosed and treated.
- Dogs infected with lungworm spread the parasite into the environment, as the larvae of the parasite are expelled in the dog's faeces. This increases the chances of other dogs becoming infected.

What are the signs my dog has lungworm?

Dogs of all ages and breeds can become infected with lungworm. However, younger dogs seem to be more prone to picking up the parasite. Dogs known to eat slugs and snails should also be considered high risk. Lungworm infections can result in a number of different signs which may easily be confused with other illnesses. If your dog is displaying any of the signs below, consult your veterinary surgeon immediately

- Breathing problems.
- Bruising/Nose bleeds.
- General sickness or lethargy.
- Behavioural changes.

There are some dogs which don't initially show outward signs of lungworm infection. We can perform tests which may help detect if your dog is infected with the lungworm parasite, if you are concerned.



Prevention and Treatment

It is important to recognise that lungworm is not prevented or treated by the conventional use of worming tablets when given every three months, or even every month. Thankfully, treatment of lungworm infection in dogs is widely available and easy to administer. Once diagnosed and treated, most dogs make a full recovery. The key to successful treatment is taking action early. If you are concerned your dog has picked up, or is at risk from, picking up a lungworm infection, contact us without delay.

Prevention and Treatment of *Angiostrongylus vasorum*

We can prescribe a specific spot-on solution to treat this parasite, which is applied to the back of the neck. Applied monthly this product can also prevent the establishment of infection with *Angiostrongylus vasorum*. Contact us on 01302 534999 for further advice.

Why is regular worming of my cat important?

Worms are parasites that live inside cats and rely on them for nutrition.

They can also infect people as well as pets, which is another reason to keep your cat worm-free! Most worms are found in the intestines and can cause health problems for your cat.

How do cats get worms?

Contaminated soil

Cats may be exposed to worm eggs via contaminated soil. The eggs are very resilient and can potentially survive for years.

Infected birds, mice and fleas

Cats that hunt and eat small animals, such as birds and mice that can be infected with immature roundworms or tapeworms, can quickly become infected themselves. Moreover, cats can also become infected by swallowing an infected flea while grooming themselves.

Mother's milk

Kittens can be infected by roundworms via their mother's milk. Dormant larvae become active once the cat starts producing milk, and are transmitted to the kittens when they suckle.

Regular worming helps prevent the spread of worms.

It's important to kill worms before they reach maturity and start producing large numbers of eggs.



FLEAS

Fleas are recognised as a major cause of skin disease for dogs and cats. However they also act as the intermediate host for the tapeworm *Dipylidium caninum*.

Fleas are the most prevalent ectoparasites of companion animals worldwide. The cat flea will feed on a variety of animals including cats and dogs, although it is not equally well adapted to all hosts. Fleas threaten the health of humans and animals due to bite reactions and transmission of diseases.

Diseases caused or mediated by fleas include:

- o Flea bite dermatitis.
- o Flea bite hypersensitivity or flea allergy dermatitis.
- o Transfer of *Dipylidium caninum* (Tapeworm).
- o Transfer of bacteria to humans and animals.



Life Cycle

- o Adult flea lays eggs which fall off your pet into the environment (your carpet, bedding, sofa etc).
- o Eggs hatch into larvae which burrow into carpets, floorboards and furniture. 95% of any flea problem is in the environment.
- o The larvae change into pupae which become cocooned.
- o These immature fleas wait for the right time to emerge and jump onto their host (your dog or cat), find a mate and the cycle begins again.

Control

- 1) Use a 'spot on' monthly to kill adult fleas on your pet and to provide protection against newly arriving fleas.
- 2) Treat your house once yearly.
- 3) Encourage juvenile fleas to hatch by vacuuming and washing bedding regularly.



Just one flea can become 1,000 on your pet and in your home in only 21 days.

Why is regular worming of my dog important?

Dogs in the UK may be infected with around a dozen different types of intestinal worm including:-

- o Roundworms
- o Tapeworms
- o Hookworms
- o Whipworms

It's not always easy to determine whether a dog is infected with worms. Common signs include:-

SCOOTING

This may indicate tapeworm infection. Scooting occurs because the egg filled segments shed by the mature tapeworms are expelled via the anus and irritate the dog's bottom.

GASTROINTESTINAL

Heavy roundworm infections may cause a distended stomach – particularly noticeable in puppies. Almost any type of intestinal worm can cause vomiting or diarrhoea. Anaemia can also develop in severe infections.

DERMATITIS

Hookworm eggs hatch in the soil and the microscopic larvae then burrow through the skin usually of the paws to get into a dog's bloodstream which can result in dermatitis.

Unfortunately, there is no tablet or injection you can give a dog which will prevent worm infection. Worming every three months will stop worms reaching maturity and affecting your dog's health, and reduce the risks to humans.

Parasite control should be performed throughout the year and not just during the summer months following the protocols below.

Cats

In cats that are not prolific hunters we recommend monthly application of a spot-on which kills fleas, roundworms and hookworms. Every three months tapeworm treatment (either tablet or spot on) should be used.

In hunting cats it may be necessary to give flea/roundworm spot on and tapeworm treatment monthly.

Dogs

Monthly application of a spot-on which kills fleas, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms. Every three months tablets should be given to kill tapeworms. Certain dogs may require more regular tapeworm treatment e.g. hunting dogs.