

Suggested Lead: The Companion Animal Parasite Council, CAP-C, a non-profit veterinary group, has issued its new guidelines for both veterinarians and pet owners to reduce the risk of internal parasites. Sonia Martin has the story.

Video	Audio
	<p>(1) Announcer: According to the Centers for Disease Control and the Companion Animal Parasite Council, as many as three million people will be infected by internal parasites this year that may be transmitted by their pets.</p>
<p>Peter Schantz Centers for Disease Control</p>	<p>(2) Peter Schantz: <i>Dogs and cats can be infected with a large number of different intestinal parasites. Some of these can be transmitted to humans and cause serious illness in people. And it's important to realize too, that these pups and kittens may not appear to be sick, but yet they're carrying—parasites.</i></p>
	<p>(3) Announcer: The Companion Animal Parasite Council, CAP-C, a non-profit veterinary group, has issued new guidelines to both pet owners and veterinarians to reduce the risk of parasitic disease. The guidelines recommend early detection and treatment, year round control of parasites and regular visits to your veterinarian.</p>
<p>Jeanne Eisenhour Veterinarian</p>	<p>(4) Jeanne Eisenhour: <i>Puppies and kittens are started on a de-worming program as early as two to three weeks of age. We use a broad spectrum parasiticide in our cats and our dogs that not only de-worm them of intestinal parasites but also prevent heartworm.</i></p>
	<p>(5) Announcer: Statistics show less than half of dogs and cats are taken to a veterinarian regularly. Among the most common internal parasites are</p>

	<p>roundworms, heartworms and hookworms...</p> <p>And while scenes like this puppy licking a child may seem like something to worry about, it's not the greatest risk your pet will pose to your family for disease transmission.</p>
<p>Dr. Mike Thomas Veterinarian</p>	<p>(6) Dr. Mike Thomas: <i>Most of these parasites are communicable through the stool contamination and the soil. And many of these-- eggs can live for years in the soil. So you may assume there are no parasites there.</i></p>
	<p>(7) Announcer: Preventive treatment is easy with regular visits to your Veterinarian.</p>
<p>Trish Barteck Dog Owner</p>	<p>(8) Trish Barteck: <i>She takes one pill, once a month, and it's very easy. And she also sees a veterinarian to make sure there are no parasites.</i></p>
	<p>(9) Announcer: On behalf of the Companion Animal Parasite Council, this is Sonia Martin.</p>

Suggested Tag: For more information on preventing animal parasites and controlling your pet's health year-round, please visit www.petsandparasites.org

Additional Soundbites

Peter Schantz
Centers for Disease Control

But in the case of the roundworms and hookworms, they're not immediately infective when they're passed in the stool. And they-- they actually mature, and become infective in the environment. So, really, people get infected from the environment that's been contaminated by dog and cat stools.

Pet owners have no idea of this. It's just not on the radar screen for the average citizen. We certainly hope that it is-- high on the radar-- radar screen of all practicing-- veterinarians, because this is probably one of the major put--

contributions to public health. Simply by doing-- what-- what they do best, which is to diagnose, and-- and treat these infections.

As a practicing veterinarian, what we see that's of most concern today is really the complacency that's been evolved over the last few years in that-- many people assume that-- parasites are under control and-- and we don't see those much anymore. And nothing could be further from the truth. A research project recently showed that there are over-- several hundred thousands of pet worms, for example, diagnosed in this country every year.

Dr. Mike Thomas
Veterinarian

As a practicing veterinarian, what we see that's of most concern today is really the complacency that's been evolved over the last few years in that-- many people assume that-- parasites are under control and-- and we don't see those much anymore. And nothing could be further from the truth. A research project recently showed that there are over-- several hundred thousands of pet worms, for example, diagnosed in this country every year.

The Companion Animal Parasite Council recommends, and we certainly do in our practice, is that you give year-round preventive in most areas of the country that can prevent intestinal worms as well as heartworms, since these medicines are so available, economical, and easy to give.

Jeanne Eisenhour
Veterinarian

In our clinic we follow the Companion Animal Parasite Council guidelines. And those guidelines state that every animal should be examined by a veterinarian at least once a year. In our clinic we actually ask them to come twice a year.

There are not only the flea and tick population that we do have to be concerned about, but there also are the internal parasites that-- that can be transmitted between dogs and cats, between dogs and humans-- but also for the health of the pet, we want to have them de-wormed.

Trish Barteck
Dog Owner

As a parent and a pet owner, it is frightening to think that something that you wouldn't normally be aware of could infect your whole house.

Pets and Parasites

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