

Helping Hands Veterinary Clinic

WWW.HELPINGHANDSVET.COM

Intestinal Parasites

It is totally disgusting to think that, in the early 1900s, it was vogue to consume tapeworms as an easy means of weight loss. This same type of tapeworm can sometimes live in your dog & cat's small intestine, feeding off the food he eats as it makes its way through her digestive system.

What exactly is a tapeworm? Tapeworms get their name from the fact that they look like—you guessed I tape. The body of the tapeworm is segmented up to its neck. Its mouth is filled with six sets of “teeth” that the parasite uses to attach itself to the intestinal lining. Once it’s attached, it moves in permanently and starts stealing its meals from your pet.

So here is where tapeworms get even freakier. Tapeworms are usually transmitted when a pet digests a flea during grooming. Pets can also get tapeworms by ingesting the eggs shed by other animals or by hunting flea-infested rodents. As mentioned, a tapeworm’s body is made up of tiny segments. Each of these segments has its own digestive and reproductive system. These segments eventually break off and are passed through your pet's digestive system, exiting via the anus.

These nasty segments, which look like pieces of rice, are spread around the house, in your furniture and carpeting. When a segment is ingested by a host, the cycle can start all over again inside the unknowing victim’s digestive tract. The most common symptom of tapeworms is the appearance of the tapeworm segments on your pet’s hair, near her anus, or in he's stool. Because tapeworms feed on the nutrients passed in the small intestine, your pet may seem more hungry than usual as she is unwittingly sharing he's meal with a nasty intestinal parasite. If the infestation lasts long enough, your pet might even lose weight. The easiest and most common way to diagnose tapeworms is through visual inspection. Your veterinarian may also recommend other diagnostic tests, depending on your pet’s symptoms; these could include a fecal test to rule out other intestinal parasites. Treating tapeworms includes a deworming medication that will kill off the existing tapeworms. Additionally, ensuring your pet and house are flea-free.

PET OF THE MONTH!

Goofy & Lana have been coming to HHVC since 2008.

Favorite treat?

Meat Bones

Favorite sleeping spot?

Goofy: On your back. Lana: Under the covers.

Best trick?

Goofy: Tongue soccer. Lana: Couch potato

Favorite toy?

Goofy: Grumpy ball. Lana: Tennis ball.



NEWS & EVENTS

www.helpinghandsvet.com

Seattle Cancer Care

HHVC helps Seattle Cancer Care Alliance with holding a fund raiser selling pink ribbons and donating all the funds.

PAWS

HHVC has been working with PAWS on donating pet food and supplies in the month of January. If you would like to help HHVC please stop by with your food/supplies donations.

Free Microchip Clinic

HHVC is teaming up with NWIPR on hosting a FREE MICROCHIP CLINIC! Saturday March 30th from 9am - 1pm. All animal must be spayed/neutered or proof of prepaid spay/neuter in order to participate. Implantation is free but must pay \$10.99 registration fee.

March 2013 Clinic Promo

Microchip Month!
10% OFF MICROCHIPPING