

Parasite myth-busters!

When it comes to feline parasites, there is a lot of conflicting information out there. This list contains some important parasite facts, as well as some of the commonly believed myths that just aren't true!



If your cat has parasites, you will see them – FALSE!

Although it is sometimes possible to see parasites (for example fleas and ticks in the fur, or worms in your cat's faeces) this isn't always the case. Feline parasites can go unnoticed for some time – even when owners monitor their cats extremely closely! This is because worms can live inside your cat's digestive system without causing obvious signs in the faeces, while parasites such as fleas have life stages which remain well hidden in your house.



Parasites aren't just uncomfortable; they can also be dangerous – TRUE!

Parasites aren't just unpleasant for cats, they can also cause a lot of damage, triggering severe reactions. Certain parasites can also transmit some nasty diseases to both your cat and your family.



Regular parasite treatments can mean a better relationship between cats and their owners – TRUE!

The bond between us and our cats is so important, but it can be more difficult to enjoy interactions with our pets when we know or suspect they are carrying parasites. Regular parasite treatment can give peace of mind, as well as protecting your cat and your household from associated discomfort, illness and disease.

By keeping our cats parasite-free, we will be able to strengthen and support the precious bond we have with our pets.



Indoor cats can't catch parasites – FALSE!

Although indoor cats are less likely to pick up parasites, they can still catch them. For example, fleas can travel indoors on our clothing or via another cat or dog (and yes – cats can catch fleas from dogs!). This means that indoor cats can pick up fleas, and these fleas can also carry tapeworm larvae, meaning indoor-only cats can also develop worm infestations!



Protection for peace of mind

As you can see, parasites can not only cause discomfort for your cat, they can also transmit some nasty diseases and can even affect you and your family.

To help keep your household safe and well, it's important to keep your cat up to date with regular, effective parasite treatments. This way you can be sure to protect your cat and preserve your bond.



Check your cat has the parasite cover they need

All cats are different, and their lifestyle will affect their risk of picking up parasites.

To check your pet has the right level of cover for them, you can take a quick self-assessment questionnaire that covers topics such as hunting and access to the outdoors.

You can then discuss the results with your vet, who will ensure your feline friend is prescribed the right parasite treatment regime to keep them safe and well.



Ask your veterinary team for more information.

Reference:

1. Abdullah S. et al. Parasites & Vectors (2019) 12:71
2. Wright I. et al. Journal of Small Animal Practice (2016) 57:393-395

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Protect Your Cat, Preserve Your Bond.

Why feline parasite treatment is so important...



WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

*What are feline parasites?
And why is it so important to
take action against them?*

Common feline parasites include fleas, ticks, ear mites, roundworms, tapeworms... the list goes on! Unfortunately, when cats aren't protected, they can easily pick parasites up and spread them to other animals and for some, even to humans.

Feline parasites aren't just uncomfortable; they can also cause allergic reactions and illness, and transmit some nasty diseases...

***This means that regular parasite
treatment is highly recommended!***

By making regular parasite control part of your routine with your cat, you can avoid all of the negative effects that a parasite infestation could have on your pet and your family. Ultimately, this will help to protect the important bond you have with your cat.

**Talk to your
vet about how
you can protect
your cat against
parasites.**

**Protect your
cat, preserve
your bond.
Always.**



WHO ARE THE MAIN OFFENDERS?



**1 in 4 cats
have fleas**



Fleas

Fleas are the most common feline parasites in the UK, with a recent study showing that 1 in 4 cats have fleas! Unfortunately, because of central heating, fleas are now a year-round problem and 95% of a flea infestation will remain

hidden as eggs, larvae & pupae in your home. Flea bites can be very uncomfortable and itchy. Some cats can develop an allergic reaction to flea saliva, and fleas can also transmit certain diseases to other cats and humans.



Ear mites

Ear mites live in the ear canal, causing discharge, inflammation, itchiness and local allergic reactions, which can be very sore for our pets.

Ear mites are normally spread through direct contact with another animal that already has mites.



Ticks

Ticks spend most of their lives in the environment, before jumping on to a host for a blood meal.

Although ticks are more active in spring and autumn months, increasing temperatures have meant they are now considered a year-round problem in the UK.

Tick bites can cause discomfort, and the affected skin can become infected or form an abscess. These unpleasant parasites can also transmit some serious diseases to pets and humans.



**95% of a flea infestation
is in the home**

Tapeworms

Tapeworms can cause gastrointestinal upsets in cats, and this parasite can also spread to humans.

Cats that hunt are more prone to tapeworm, as this parasite is transmitted through eating infected prey. Fleas can also transmit tapeworm larvae, meaning all cats – even those that are indoor only – can be at risk of catching tapeworm.

Segments of tapeworm can sometimes be spotted in a cat's faeces, looking like grains of rice, but cats usually do not show any signs initially. This makes it very difficult for owners to identify that there is a problem.



**Fleas and
ticks can be a
problem all
year round!**



Roundworms

Roundworms are the most common worms found in cats in the UK.² All cats are potentially at risk from the microscopic eggs which survive in the environment for over a year. Cats that hunt can also pick up roundworms by eating infected prey. Roundworm larvae can also be passed from a mother to her kittens during nursing.

Occasionally roundworms will be spotted in cats' faeces, with adult worms growing to around 6-10cm long! However, worms will not be seen in most cases.

Roundworms can cause digestive upsets in cats, and they can cause severe disease in kittens. The larvae of these worms can also spread to humans.



**As well as these common offenders, cats can also pick up
rarer parasites including lungworm and hookworm.
Ask your vet for advice on complete parasite protection.**

**Tapeworms inside
cats can be
60cm long!**



**Parasites just aren't worth
the risk! Make sure your
cat is fully covered.**