

De-Worming - An Ignored Boon

¹Dr. Aditya Pratap and ²Dr. Varsha Mishra

¹PhD Scholar, Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary science and A. H., NDVSU, Jabalpur (M.P.), 482001

²PG Scholar, Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary science and A. H., NDVSU, Jabalpur (M.P.), 482001

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7800594>

Abstract

Worms or other parasite infestations, particularly in the lungs and intestines, are the cause of many of the most prevalent health issues seen in dogs and cats. These illnesses are typically brought on by drinking stagnant water, playing in contaminated ground or dirt, or getting bitten by rats or fleas. In such cases, it is always suggested to get your pet deworm and use preventative measures to remove fleas from your dogs and cats on a regular basis, even if they appear to be in excellent health.

Introduction

De-worming is a crucial part of a preventive care regimen that can help your pet feel better and have fewer parasites (both internal and external). Worms are nasty parasites that when present inside the body of your pet can generally cause problems ranging from lethargy, Anemia to Infection of dermis, acute as well as chronic gastrointestinal problems, decreased immunity and many more; hence compromising your pets health.

Pets that are not dewormed routinely get ill and suffer from growth retardation. In addition, although most worms and fleas prefer to feed on our pets, they can also bite humans and use them for transport and can also infect humans rendering zoonotic infection threat to the pet parents as well.

As there are many types of worms which affect your pet (ex- Heartworm, Roundworm, Hookworm, tapeworm, whipworm etc.) and are not sensitive to only one kind of dewormers, hence here comes the role for a veterinarian's advice, who with their practical experience, advises the

suitable drug according to the body weight and age group to which animal belongs.

Nonetheless, prevention is always the best option, regardless of the type of worms. Don't let your pet drink from ponds, streams, or lakes, and swiftly clean up after him. Furthermore, prevent him from eating any faeces, especially his own. It's crucial to ensure that your pet receives preventative medication for heartworms, fleas, and ticks.

General Schedule

- Puppies/ Kittens can be dewormed from as early as 2 - 3 weeks of age with a repetition in every 15 days for up to 3 months of age.
- From 3 - 6 months of age deworming should be done on an interval of 1 month.
- After 6 months of age - Deworming should be done 3 - 4 times annually or in every 3-month interval.

Natural remedies to deworm your furry pets

Feeding your pet healthy diet can be an icing on the cake as healthy pet treats with the goodness of fruits and vegetables are extremely beneficial for the health as well as deworming.

1) Fruits and Vegetables: - Grated carrots, beetroot, banana, apple, coconut, and papaya are vegetables that are high in fibre and function as natural dewormers. In addition to being rich in vitamin A, carrots scratch the intestinal and stomach walls when coarsely sliced, removing any parasites and mucus that may be present.

2) Pumpkin Seeds: - Cucurbitacin, a deworming agent, is present in pumpkin seeds. The worms are rendered paralyzed by this substance, which prevents them from clinging to the body's intestinal walls during bowel movement. As a result, the digestive tract will be free of all worms.

3) Papaya: - All varieties of intestinal worms can be killed by the anti-amoebic effects of papaya seeds in the digestive system. The papaya fruit also produces papain, an enzyme that aids in the elimination of intestinal worms.

4) Coconut: - Dried coconut or coconut oil is a vermifuge and can also be used to deworm cats naturally. As cat's body converts the lauric acid in coconut oil into monolaurin, which is known to be helpful against tapeworm, giardia, and other parasites.

Natural remedies are fewer popular recommendations generally practiced by owners but their intensity, way of administration and reactions varies from pets to pets, hence cross checking with your veterinarian can be an added advantage to the love, you shower on your pet.



Preventive measures

- Use worm and flea prevention treatment regularly.
- Wash regularly pet bedding at 60°C (and other fabric that the pet lays on)
- Discard the faeces properly outside the periphery of your pet's reach
- Keep regular monitoring on shedding of worms in faeces and on beddings of your pet
- Vacuum floors, skirting and furniture regularly (to break the flea lifecycle, worms landed on floor with poop – and empty your vacuum cleaner after)
- Use a flea spray for bedding and furniture
- Groom your pet regularly so you can spot any early signs of infestation with fleas

Conclusion

Even if your pet might not leave the house, worms and fleas could readily enter on the clothing and bags of other pet owners, as well as on your own clothes and shoes, if you visit a friend who owns a pet and there are worm eggs in the faeces or worm shreds on the floor nearby. Regular deworming treatments for your pet are crucial, especially if there are kids living with you. Due to their immature immune systems, puppies and kittens are particularly vulnerable to worms and skin issues. Pet owners can deworm their pets at home as well, but it is always advised to visit your veterinarian first to receive the best guidance possible because every worming scenario is unique. It is usually preferable to first visit your veterinarian for the best method of treating and preventing worms because every pet's situation is unique with variations in breed, age, and health concerns. Regular and frequent flea, tick, and worm treatment is the best method to keep your pet safe.

Avoidance is far preferable to cure. Deworming your pet on a regular basis is cheap, and it's better to be safe than sorry. It will make your indoor pet happier and healthier.

