

General Parasite Control Recommendations for Shelter Dogs and Cats

Parasite	Who	When	Notes
Hookworms and roundworms	All dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens 2 weeks of age and older	On intake, repeat in 2 weeks	Zoonotic Common treatment options include pyrantel pamoate, fenbendazole, and ivermectin.
Fleas and ticks	All dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens	On intake or when evidence of infestation is found	External parasites can transmit infectious diseases to animals and people. A variety of topical and oral products are available; many products include treatment for additional internal or external parasites.
<i>Coccidia spp.</i>	Puppies and kittens	On intake in endemic populations	Most effective treatment options include ponazuril and toltrazuril. Animals should be bathed at end of treatment course to prevent re-infection.
Heartworms	All dogs and cats 8 weeks of age and older	On intake, repeat monthly	Monthly topical or oral products are available, along with a 6-month injectable product; many products include treatment for additional internal or external parasites. All preventives are safe to administer to dogs with heartworm infection.
Other parasites	All dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens	Upon diagnosis	Prophylactic treatment not recommended.
		<i>Giardia spp.</i>	Combination therapy with fenbendazole and metronidazole most effective. Animals should be bathed at end of treatment course to prevent re-infection.
		Whipworms	Common treatment options include fenbendazole, milbemycin, and moxidectin. Multiple treatments may be required to clear infection.
Tapeworms		Flea treatment must be included in treatment course. Tapeworms do not cause clinical disease in otherwise healthy dogs and cats. Tapeworm species found in dogs and cats are not zoonotic.	