

Keeping your pet healthy & parasite free

Shaping the future of animal health

Virbac

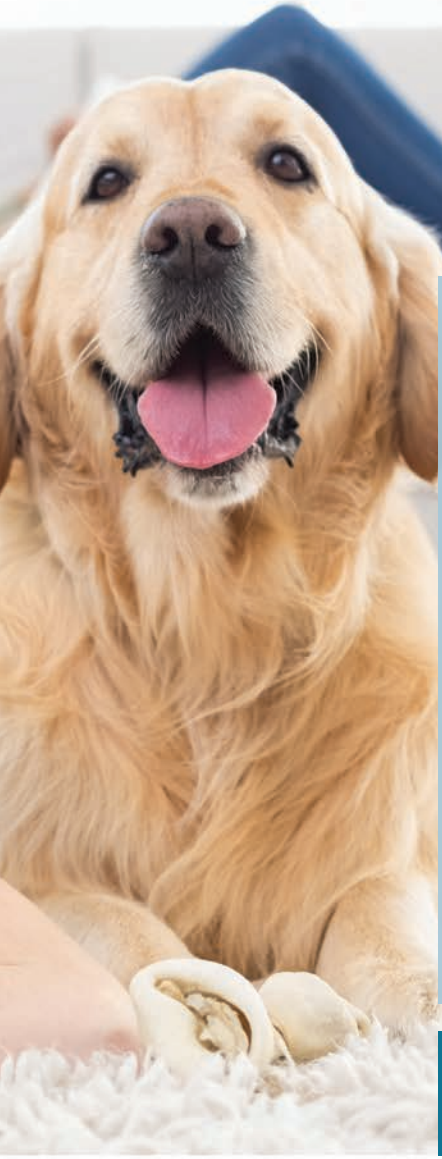
EVEN THE CLEANEST, MOST WELL-CARED-FOR PETS CAN PICK UP PARASITES.

The most common places pets come into contact with parasites are our gardens and outside spaces, rather than direct contact with other animals. You're unlikely to see the parasites themselves but you may see evidence of them on your pet's skin, in your home or changes in your pet's behaviour. Although parasites are often invisible to us, fleas, ticks and worms can affect our pets' health - and our own health too.

Zoonosis is a technical term for an infectious disease which can be transmitted from animals to humans. There are a number of different zoonoses all around us, including some parasites that pets can carry.



95%
of fleas live in carpets, floorboards and soft furnishings.



ZERO TOLERANCE

Preventing parasites

- **Routinely treat pets for fleas** to make sure any fleas pets pick up don't survive for long enough to become established in our homes.
- **Worm your pet regularly** to reduce the number of worm eggs being shed into the environment.
- **Vacuum regularly and thoroughly,** especially below curtains, under furniture edges and where pets sleep as it's estimated that vacuuming can remove up to 50% of flea eggs. Treating your home with a household flea spray will prevent flea eggs from developing in your home.
- **Clean up pet faeces regularly** to reduce environmental contamination with infective parasite stages.
- **Reduce the temptation** for rodents to come into gardens and spread parasites by keeping them clear of rubbish and food waste.
- **Muddy shoes and wheels can harbour parasite eggs** so keep them clean too.
- **Always wash pet bedding** on hot washes 60^{0}C+.
- **Always wash your hands** after gardening as soil can be contaminated by worm eggs.

Ask your vet how to approach a year round Zero Tolerance to parasites

fleas



Fleas are the most common visible parasite affecting cats and dogs. They are a year-round problem and can also transmit tapeworms to your pets. If uncontrolled, flea numbers can grow rapidly.

Ask your vet

It is important to treat both your home and your pet, ask your vet for advice

The most common flea we see can survive on both dogs and cats - but luckily not humans.

Fleas are hard to spot so just because you've not seen one on your pet, it doesn't mean that they're not there.

Irritating to humans and pets, fleas feed on the blood of their host and can be a trigger for allergic skin disease. This can lead to redness, itching, pain and infection, particularly at the base of the tail, groin area and along the stomach.

Fleas can survive both within our homes and in the outdoors environment so a year-round prevention regime is vital.

Some species of flea can jump more than 200 times their height. That's equivalent to an adult human being capable of jumping over the Eiffel Tower!



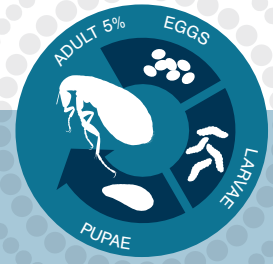
HOW DO FLEAS AFFECT PEOPLE?

Fleas can occasionally bite people causing localised itching, redness and soreness. The most common site for bites is around the feet and legs, these being the most accessible parts available to newly hatched fleas as they emerge from a pupae lodged in the carpet.

Cat Scratch Fever is a bacterial zoonotic disease carried by fleas and can be found in around 40% of cats at some point in their lives.[2] People with weak immune systems are at increased risk of getting seriously ill with cat scratch fever. The key to preventing cat scratch fever is to practise excellent flea control and avoid cat scratches or bites.

1 flea can become **1,000** in just 21 days

50% of fleas have been found to carry at least one disease[1]





THE 4-STAGE FLEA LIFE CYCLE

Fleas have a 4-stage life cycle and the fleas you might see on your pet will be just the tip of the iceberg. 95% of the flea's life cycle occurs in the environment - this can mean in our homes, gardens and outdoor spaces. Adult fleas live on your pet but represent only 5% of the total flea population.

EGGS On average a female flea lays 50 eggs a day on untreated pets which scatter as your pet moves around their home: into carpets, pet bedding and soft furnishings, under skirting and floorboards and even in your car.

ADULT FLEAS live on your pet, feeding on their blood.

FLEA LARVAE hatch from eggs and feed on organic matter, such as skin scales and dandruff. They like the dark so burrow deep into carpets, upholstery and underneath floorboards.

PUPAE are sticky, impenetrable cocoons from which adult fleas hatch. Hatching is triggered by warmth, humidity and vibrations caused by passing pets or people.

While pupae can hatch after as little as one week, they can lie dormant in cracks and crevices for up to a year, only hatching when conditions are right.

HOW TO TREAT AN EXISTING INFESTATION

Treat all pets regularly ensuring dosage is based on their correct weight and applied correctly as per the instructions. Also, treat your home with a household flea spray - use a product that will kill any remaining adult fleas and also stop the development of eggs and larvae. Follow the instructions carefully and be sure to vacuum for several days after treatment to encourage fleas in pupae to hatch and be killed. Wash your pet's bedding thoroughly and don't forget to clean and treat your car, pet carrier, garage or any other place your pet spends time.





[1] Shaw *et al*, 2004

[2] Shaw, SE, Birtles, R.J., Tasker, S and Kenny, M.J. (2004).Pathogen carriage by the cat flea Ctenocephalides Felis in the United Kingdom. Veterinary Microbiology; 102 (314) pp183 - 188.

worms

Although we might not often see these parasites, they're all around us, including in parks and public play areas. Some worms can infect humans and cause serious disease - accidental ingestion of roundworm eggs from contaminated soil can even, in rare cases, result in blindness.

PROTECTING YOUR PET, FAMILY AND HOME

Worms of dogs and cats in the UK are transmitted by contaminated faeces - hygiene is fundamentally important when preventing infection, particularly washing hands after handling pets and gardening, and before eating food.

Try to minimise exposure, especially of children, to potentially contaminated environments.

Cleaning up faeces is crucial to reduce the number of worm eggs in the environment, but even the most diligent hygiene cannot fully protect dogs and cats from infection. Worm eggs are abundant in the environment due to their hardy exterior and long life.



Adult roundworms can grow up to 7 inches long

Roundworms can lay 1,000's of eggs in 1 day

LUNGWORM

Lungworm can be a very serious disease affecting dogs.



Dogs can be infected with lungworm when they eat a slug, snail or frog infected with lungworm larvae. Once in the stomach the larvae migrate to the airways, blood vessels and the heart.

Adult worms lay eggs that develop into tiny larvae and are coughed up and swallowed. Larvae pass out in the faeces where they enter slugs and snails, starting the cycle again.

The parasites can cause damage to blood vessels and airways. Common signs include a cough, breathlessness or breathing difficulties but can include weight loss, lethargy, reduced appetite, anaemia and abnormal bleeding.

Dogs of all ages and breeds can become infected but younger dogs seem to be more prone to picking up the parasite because of their curiosity. Dogs can't pass the infection directly to one another - it's important to try to stop them eating slugs, snails and frogs, and to use regular treatments from your vet to protect your dog.

If you're concerned, it's always best to take your pet to the vet to be checked. If caught early enough, treatment for lungworm is usually successful.

TAPEWORM



Fleas and chewing lice can transmit tapeworms. Tapeworms use their sharp teeth to attach themselves to cats' and dogs' gut walls.

They can grow to around half a metre in length inside the guts. Segments packed with eggs, break off and are excreted in the faeces looking like grains of rice.

Most tapeworms found in the UK rarely cause any symptoms, but can deprive your pet of vital nutrients. Some tapeworms found abroad can be a significant risk to human and pet health.

It's always important to discuss parasites with your vet before you travel.

ROUNDWORMS



Pets of any age can become infected with roundworms by picking up worm eggs and larvae from the soil, ingesting faecal matter, hunting rodents and by feeding or scavenging on raw meat or carcasses.

Puppies can become infected while in the mother's womb if the mother is already infected, and both puppies and kittens can become infected through the mother's milk.

Symptoms in infected cats and dogs can include loss of condition, lethargy, weight loss, anal irritation, diarrhoea and respiratory problems.

In puppies and kittens, a heavy worm burden can also cause intestinal blockage with possible life-threatening consequences. Some roundworms can be zoonotic, so cleaning up faeces is a crucial part of responsible pet ownership.



Roundworms are one of the **most** common parasites found in cats and dogs.

Ask your vet

Experts advise that pet owners consult their vet about a parasite control programme to ensure the health and wellbeing of all people who come into contact with their pets.

Protect your pet and your family with a year-round, regular worming regime

ticks



It's important to check your pet regularly for ticks, especially if they like to venture into woodlands and long grass.

Pay close attention to their ears, neck, skin folds and other crevices. Ticks can also bite and transmit diseases to humans so be sure that when checking your pet for ticks, you also check yourself.



Ask your vet. Tick control is important as it can help repel, kill or prevent them from taking blood from your pet.

Female ticks lay around **2000** eggs

There are about **850** tick species



Ticks are external parasites, which feed on the blood of animals and humans. They cannot fly or jump but use their eight legs to crawl into undergrowth and climb up long grasses from which they can fall on pets.

They can range in size from a pinhead, up to around the size of a fingernail when fully swollen and engorged with blood.

The species of tick most likely to infest pets in the UK is the Ixodes species, often known as sheep, hedgehog or deer ticks.

They are found in woodlands and parks, even in urban areas and particularly thrive among long grasses.

Adult ticks attach to larger animals such as deer, sheep or dogs.

- Ticks can cause irritation to pets and, if they are scratched off and the mouthparts left behind, small abscesses can result.
- Ticks can transmit bacteria, viruses and other parasitic infections as well as causing anaemia, especially in young animals.



If you travel outside the UK with your pet, there are other ticks - and diseases that they carry - to consider that can be harmful to pets and humans, so talk to your vet before you go.

You can also use specially designed tick removal tools to safely and effectively remove attached ticks.



mites & lice



House dust mites

House dust mites are one of the main triggers involved in some allergic skin diseases in pets and are also implicated in asthma in humans.

They are barely visible to the naked eye and live off skin flakes shed into the environment, so thrive in our homes.

There can be as many as 500 mites per gram of dust. Certain household flea sprays also protect against house dust mites: an annual application of these sprays can protect your home.

Remember also that dead dust mites can still trigger allergic skin disease, so always use a high-filtration vacuum cleaner to eliminate dead house dust mite bodies from your home.



EAR MITES

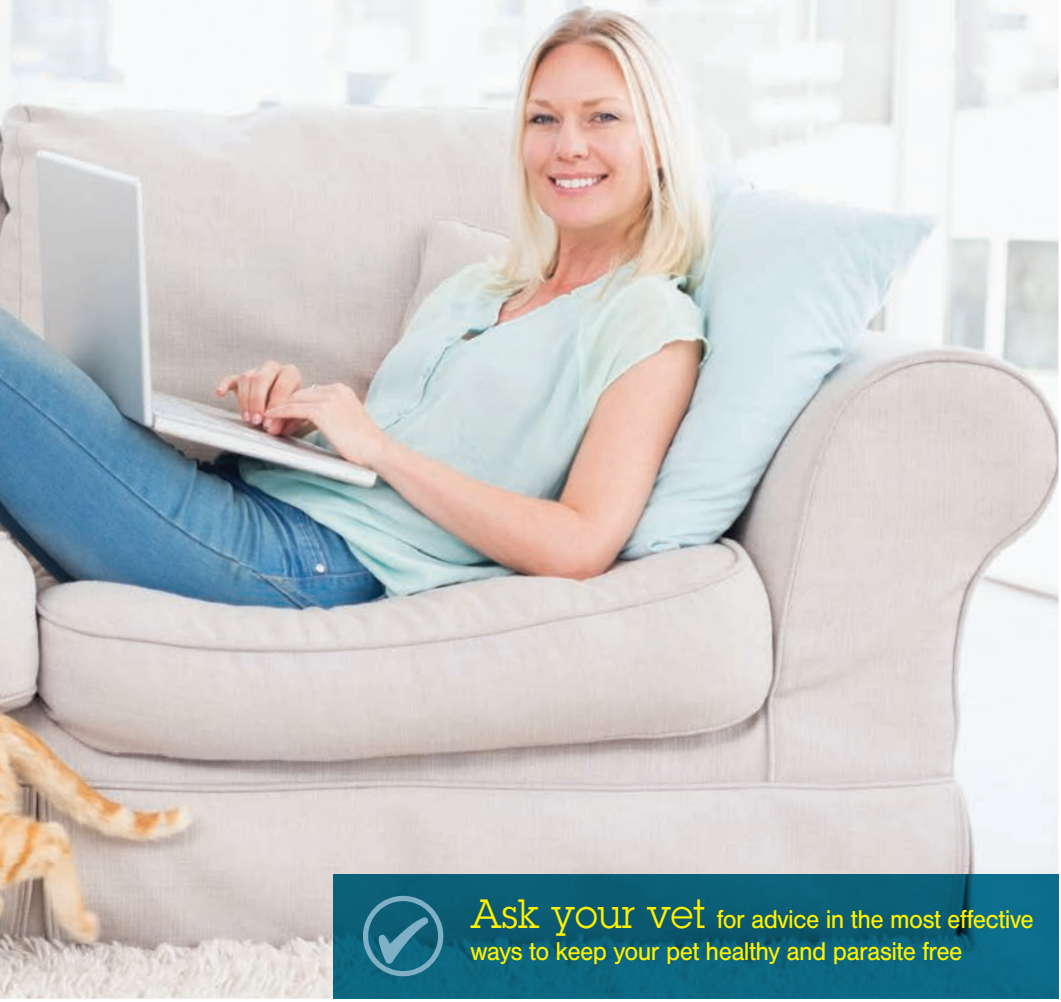
are eight-legged parasites that can cause itching and persistent irritation. Young animals are particularly at risk because these mites are contagious and pass easily between animals in close contact. The mites live on the surface of the skin within the ear canal, sometimes with no outward sign but often causing scratching and inflammation of the ears.

SARCOPTES MITES

live on their hosts permanently and cause a condition known as scabies or fox mange. They cause severe irritation most commonly in the skin of the ears and on the abdomen and groin. Scabies can also be zoonotic.

BITING LICE

are uncommon but are very specific in their choice of hosts,for example a louse affecting a dog will not infect a cat and vice versa. In large numbers they can cause itchy skin and allow the skin to be vulnerable to other problems. Very young or old animals or those with a compromised immune system are most at risk from lice.



Ask your vet for advice in the most effective ways to keep your pet healthy and parasite free

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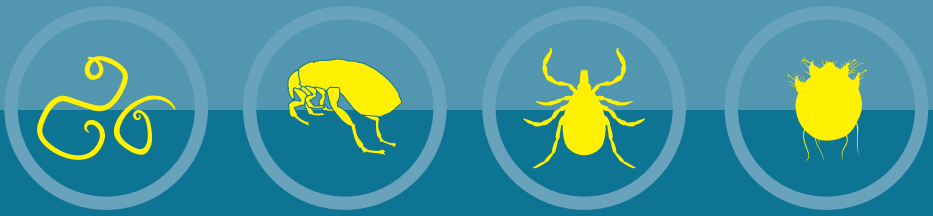
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Ask your vet for more information and advice on the most effective ways to help keep your pet fit, healthy and parasite free.



Prescription decisions are for the person issuing the prescription alone.
Use medicines responsibly, www.noah.co.uk/responsible

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