

Parasites: Prevention is your best option!

By Andrea Craun

Parasites are organisms that live by feeding off other organisms. Dogs and cats can easily get both internal and external parasites. Parasites can be tough to diagnose. A close visual inspection of your pet's skin may reveal external parasites such as ear mites, ticks or fleas. Internal parasites such as worms may need diagnosed by your vet through fecal tests or blood tests. Some parasites can be deadly so early treatment is crucial.



Parasites can make your pets uncomfortable and even seriously ill. The cost of preventative medicine, like flea and tick treatment, can add up but it's much cheaper than costly treatments after your pet has been infected. Getting your pet vaccinated and dewormed regularly helps their immune system work properly. Adult pets also benefit from fecal examinations. This can allow your vet to diagnose internal parasites that are not controlled by monthly treatments.

This is why prevention is so important! You can discuss monthly preventative treatments with you vet to determine what is right for your pet.