

Parasite Prevention

Encouraging year-round protection is crucial to pet health

Although veterinarians continue to educate pet owners on feline parasite protection, it seems that most cat owners are unaware that their unprotected cats are being put at constant and unnecessary risk.

Additionally, the necessary level of parasite protection for “indoor” cats continues to raise questions. Cat owners may not be fully aware that, although the majority of indoor cats may stay indoors, the outdoors, such as mud, insects and rodents, can easily find its way into the home. These outdoor elements might harbor parasite eggs or larvae, fleas, ticks or heartworms. There is a false sense of security that indoor cats are not at risk. In fact, one study showed that 25 percent of cats diagnosed with heartworm disease were solely indoor cats.¹

Furthermore, other pets in the same household, such as dogs, can easily spread these contagious parasites to unprotected indoor cats.

The good news is that parasite prevention is easy. One simple monthly application of a preventive medicine is all it takes to protect your cat from some of its worst parasite enemies, including fleas, heartworms, ear mites, hookworms and roundworms.

Our hospital, as well as, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Heartworm Society, and the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommends that all cats, both indoor and outdoor, be on year-round broad spectrum parasite prevention.

¹ Atkins CE, DeFrancesco TC, Coats JR, et al. Heartworm infection in cats: 50 cases (1985-1997) *J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 2000; 217:355-358.