



Ask the VMD

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Worming farm pets

A reader asks:
What type of wormer can safely be used for farm dogs and cats?

Dr. Maas comments:
Understanding the life cycle of parasites is of prime importance in establishing a program to control infestations in dogs and cats.

All gastrointestinal parasites are passed in the fecal material of animals. They can be in various stages, such as egg, oocyst, or larva. After a certain incubation period, they may directly reinfect the animal, or they may require an initial maturation in an intermediate host before becoming infective again.

Preventative and control measures are aimed at breaking some part of the organism's life cycle. There is no better preventive technique than simple removal of fecal matter on a regular basis — daily, if possible. The eggs laid by the adult female parasites are entrapped in the fecal matter until it is broken down by rain or tracking.

For dogs, ideal housing conditions involve individually

isolated concrete runs which can be hosed down daily with water. Unfortunately, this is not always the practical situation with farm dogs — but routine and frequent yard clean-up is possible.

Other factors that affect control include soil type, sunlight, and chemical decontamination of an outdoor area. For example, if rain washes whipworm eggs deep into less compact, sandy soil, the eggs are not as accessible for reingestion by the animal. Whereas, on a tight, clay soil, the non-motile eggs remain nearer the surface.

In the case of hookworm infective larvae, the reverse is true — they are more infective on a sandy soil. Hatched hookworm larvae can migrate deeper into sandy soil if the surface is dry and return to the surface when moisture is more favorable to their survival.

Direct sunlight is excellent in reducing the level of infective stages on concrete or ground. Hatched hookworm larvae are more susceptible to drying out and death than are the intact eggs of roundworms or whipworms.

Still, the infection of dogs and

cats by roundworms or whipworms is generally lower if the animals are housed in bright sunlight than in shaded areas. It must be remembered, however, in times of uncomfortable high temperatures, provisions for shade are necessary.

Hookworm larvae are effectively killed by using sodium borate, sold in grocery stores for use in washing clothes. It can be sprinkled dry over concrete or dirt areas at the rate of 10 pounds per 100 feet, then wet by sprinkler. Its effect on unhatched hookworm eggs or eggs of roundworms and whipworms is questionable, though.

Repeating the application every one to two months is beneficial during the Spring and Summer. Sodium borate causes no known reaction to an animal's feet, however it does kill grass. A commercial spray is available that does not kill grass, but it must be used every two weeks and its effectiveness lasts only a few days.

Prevention of roundworm and hookworm intestinal infestation in dogs by oral medication on a daily basis is possible but not routinely prescribed because there is no

apparent eliminating effect against larvae in tissues other than the intestine. Roundworm larvae greatly damage not only the intestine but also the liver and lungs of both dogs and cats. And, initial infection by hookworm larvae may be skin penetration as well as oral ingestion.

Control of tapeworms depends not only on the efficiency of the wormer used, but also on the availability of reinfections from appropriate intermediate hosts.

Fleas and, less frequently, chewing lice must be controlled since they are intermediate hosts in the development of one type of common tapeworm infective to pets. Flea collars, though not always completely effective, do much to reduce the total flea infestation and thus restrict tapeworm reinfection.

Similarly, a second type of frequent tapeworm infection is reduced if dogs do not eat wild cottontail rabbits and cats do not ingest wild rodents. This is hardly feasible in outdoor animals and reinfection of this type of tapeworm is therefore common.

Effective and safe treatment of gastrointestinal parasitism depends upon accurate diagnosis of the particular type of infection in the dog or cat, and there are frequently more than one kind

involved. This is done by submitting a fresh fecal specimen to a veterinarian who checks for specific egg types present in the sample.

Tapeworm segments are often noticed clinging to the hair around the anus and appear as small, white, dried, rectangular shapes similar to rice grains.

After the veterinarian diagnoses the parasite infection, worming medicine is prescribed in either oral tablets, granule or liquid form, or through injection. No one type of wormer medication is known that treats the five most common gastrointestinal parasites simultaneously — that is, roundworms, tapeworms, whipworms, hookworms, and coccidia.

Some gastrointestinal wormers require fasting of the animal before and after administration. Others require a negative blood test taken by the veterinarian to check for canine heartworms since adverse reactions are possible if gastrointestinal worming medicine is given to dogs harboring heartworms.

Also, depending on the type of problem diagnosed, it may be the veterinarian's recommendation that a second an/or subsequent dosing of the wormer at a later specified time is necessary to effectively break the parasite's life cycle.

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The Braehead herd is a dairy with a rolling herd average of 11178M and 485F. The records of (1) over 17,000 lb. of milk, (2) 16,000, (3) 14,000, (4) 12,000, (5) 12,000, (12) 11,000, and (7) 10,000. Thirty-three are by Springview JEWELS PRINCE, a Lyrene May Rose, and 11 are by Springview DARI JESTER, he by DARIM. They are also daughters of Double Emory, Nobleman, Darimost, and Guernsey Land Belles ONWARD, etc.

The herd is predominantly late summer and fall freshening with 56 head due from June through October. High PD sires have been used including CHOICE (7), MAVERICK (9), PREMIER (8) with (7) due June, (3) in July, (35) in August, and (5) in September. The heifers are bred to Dardenellas TJ Sunday, a TOP JOLLY son out of Mileys Sabē who has 5 lactations total of 109,070M, 5377F in 1818 days.

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BARN BURNED!!! SHORT NOTICE DAIRY HERD WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

12:00 Noon
Located at New Holland Sales Stables,
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D.H. Rumsev will have an upstate PA dairy of 35 Holstein cows (10 just fresh, 10 handling & springing, balance bred for fall). A good milky herd here selling only due to loss of barn.

PUBLIC AUCTION

HG CRAWLER: FARM EQUIPMENT ANTIQUES SAT. MAY 23, 1981 at 10 A.M.

(3 miles N. of Fogelsville), turn W. off Rt. 100 at Claussville intersection onto blacktop toward Seipstown, Weisenberg Twp., Lehigh Co. Pa.

Oliver HG 68" crawler (nice); culti for same; Oliver 84 two bot. pl.; 3 pt. two bot. 14" pl.; 3 pt. three sec. harrow; Oliver 6' offset disc w/22" discs; 3 pt. or pole type Black Hawk corn planter; N Idea 7' trailer mower; N Idea four bar rake; NH 66 pto baler (rebut); four wheel 14' trailer w/extra 10 1/2 gran. box, King Wyse 26' bale elev; Bean 300 gal. potato sprayer w/model 15 pump & boom; 3 pt. one barrel weed sprayer; hy pressure hose & spray gun; cement mixer, duplex potato grader; 100 bu. crates, strawberry crates; few orchard saws. prunners, ladders includ. 40' ex.; hallock potato pl.; 500 lb. platform scale; 1000 lb. beam scale; round scalding trough; meat grinder w/motor; sausage stuffer; (2) butcher benches; (6) wooden tubs; (2) ci kettles; strap brass sleigh bells; split oak baskets; round oak table; (2) spool chests two drawers missing; old Philco console radio; Maytag wringer washer; recliner chair; plus many articles too numerous to mention.

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OF REAL ESTATE 1 1/2 Story Frame & Log House w/8 Rooms Garage & Barn w/3 acres & 34 perches of Land TUES. EVE., MAY 26 at 7:00

Located at corner of River Rd. & Oak Rd., R.D. #2, Conestoga, Manor Twp., Lanc. Co., Pa. About 2 mi. west of Safe Harbor & 1 mi. east of Highville.

Real Estate: 1 1/2 story frame & log house w/asphalt siding & 16' by 50' new addition w/alum. siding. 21' X 30' frame barn; 30' X 20' frame 2 car garage & tractor shed. Total of 3 acres & 34 perches of land. 2 acres of tillable ground. 235' road frontage along River Rd. & 275' road frontage along Oak Rd. Property will be open for inspection Sat's., May 16 & 23 from 1 until 3 P.M. or phone 872-5748.

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