



FVH Parasite Detection and Prevention Guidelines

- **DETECTION (Fecal microanalysis and blood testing)**
 - Puppies and Kittens- Fecal test at initial visit and again at 6-18 months of age.
 - Adult Dogs and Cats
 - Annual fecal analysis for all feline and canine patients.
 - Annual heartworm antigen blood test for canine patients starting at 1-year of age.
 - Fecal performed whenever abnormal feces or unexplained weight loss present.
 - Dogs that frequent a boarding kennel, play facility or dog park should be fecal tested regularly or as required by the organization.
 - Cats and dogs on parasite prevention products should still be fecal tested annually to detect Giardia, Coccidia, and other less common parasites that are not cleared by current prevention products.
 - Clients should provide a fresh sample in a baggie or small container; generally, a 3oz. sample is sufficient. Results are available within 24-48 hours.
- **PREVENTION (Deworming and Parasite Prevention Products)**
 - Puppies and Kittens
 - Prophylactic deworm at 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks of age, then deworm monthly until 6 months of age.
 - Adult Dogs and Cats
 - Year round use of parasite prevention products are recommended for all dogs ([Interceptor Plus](#)), outdoor cats, and indoor-only cats that live in a household with dogs or young children ([Revolution Plus](#)).

Common parasites to our area:

- **Fleas/Ticks-** Treat monthly with [Credelio](#), orally (Dogs) or [Revolution Plus](#), topically (Cats). Pets should be treated year-round since our winters are not harsh enough to suppress flea and tick populations. Infestation may lead to allergic dermatitis, anemia, itching and, in rare cases, serious disease for companion animals. Severe infestation may also require treatment of environment.
- **Heartworm-** Heartworm is a serious disease that results in severe lung disease, heart failure, other organ damage, and death in pets, mainly dogs, cats, and ferrets. It is caused by a parasitic worm called *Dirofilaria immitis*. The worms are spread through the bite of a mosquito. Climate change is increasing the potential for heartworm in the Pacific Northwest.
- **Roundworms-** Primary route of infection is via mother at birth, direct ingestion via the environment or ingestion of infected vertebrate host. Can occur in cats throughout life, but less common in adult dogs. Children and individuals with suppressed immune systems at higher risk for transmission and can lead to serious medical disorders.
- **Coccidia-** Protozoa with primary route of infection coming from contaminated environment or ingestion of contaminated host; People are not considered at risk for transmission. To prevent do not allow ingestion of wild animals and solicit only properly cleaned pet facilities.
- **Tapeworms-** Various species are prevalent and infection typically via ingestion of fleas or contaminated host. Can be a zoonotic, although rarely causes serious human medical concerns.
- **Giardia-** Differing forms affect cats, dogs and people with transmission between groups not currently demonstrated. Infection is through direct fecal-oral contact with cysts or contaminated water source/environment.
- **Toxoplasmosis-** A very serious zoonotic disease transmitted through the feces of infected cats to humans. Prevention in cats is best achieved by not allowing hunting of wild animals that may be infected, ingestion of raw or undercooked meat, and daily removal of feces from litter box. Pregnant women and immunosuppressed individuals should avoid cleaning of litter boxes and wear gloves when gardening to avoid exposure to cat feces. Additional information available at www.capcvet.org.

Fairhaven Veterinary Hospital Parasite Prevention Recommendations

Cats



- **Best product available for cats.** Prescription only with current exam.
- Prevents and treats fleas, roundworms, and ear mites. Prevents heartworm.
- Topical dries very quickly and remains effective for 1 month.
- FDA approved product; High safety margin. May be used in kittens starting at 8 weeks of age.



- OTC topical with fast flea killing action. Recommended for cats with flea allergy dermatitis (FAD).
- Maintains efficacy for 1 month.
- Safe, natural organic ingredients.
- Excellent for use around children.
- High safety margin.

Dogs



- **Best product available for dogs.** Prescription only with current exam.
- Prevents and treats fleas and ticks.
- Highly palatable hydrolyzed beef flavored tab. Ok for food allergy patients.
- Fast flea killing action, >99% of fleas killed within 8 hours.
- Maintains efficacy for 1 month. FDA Approved; High safety margin.
- Safe in puppies 8 weeks of age and weighing >4.4 pounds.
- Must be administered with food for maximum efficacy.



- **Best product available for dogs.** Prescription only with current exam.
- Treats roundworm, hookworm, whipworm, and tapeworm infestations.
- Prevents heartworm when used year-round.
- Highly palatable chicken flavored chew. Not recommended for food allergy patients.
- Safe in puppies 6 weeks of age and weighing >2 pounds.
- FDA Approved; High safety margin.



- OTC with fast flea killing action within 30 minutes of ingestion.
- Maintains efficacy for 1 month.
- Safe, natural organic ingredients.
- Administered orally with no topical residue; excellent for use around children.
- FDA approved product; High safety margin.