



**Beaconsfield  
Veterinary Centre**

Dr Steve Wait B.V.Sc. and Associates

14 Woods Street Beaconsfield VIC 3807  
P.O. Box 469 Beaconsfield VIC 3807

Tel: 9769 8777 Fax: 9769 8788  
Web: [www.beaconsfieldvet.com.au](http://www.beaconsfieldvet.com.au)

# WORMING CATS & KITTENS

## Why is it important to worm my cat?

There are as many as 7 different types of worms that can live in your cat's intestines. These parasites are a health risk to both pets and people and it is very easy and cheap to protect against them. If your cat has not been regularly wormed, there is a high chance that he or she has worms even if they seem to be in good health.

Roundworms, hookworms and tapeworms are all very common in cats and can cause diarrhoea, weight loss, generally poor body and skin condition, anaemia and even death. Young kittens are particularly prone to worm problems and so it is especially important for them to be wormed regularly. Unfortunately, a heavy worm burden in a kitten can affect its health for life, and can sometimes prove fatal.

## How often should I worm my cat?

### Kittens

- Worm every 2 weeks up to 12 weeks of age.
- Then once a month up to 6 months of age.

### Adult Cats

- After 6 months of age, worm every 3 months for life.

## What products should I use to worm my cat?

There are so many different worming products on the market that it can be very confusing to know which one is best for your cat.

### Worming paste

- An easy way of administering small doses to kittens from 2 weeks of age.
- Some people find paste easy to use for cats that are difficult to medicate.

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## Allwormers

- Usually come in tablet form. If you find that giving your cat tablets is difficult, ask us about using a pill popper.

## Combination products

- It is now possible to get a wormer that is combined with flea control as a once a month treatment.
- The great benefit of this product is that it is a liquid that is very easily applied to the skin on the back of the neck.
- However, this product does not cover for tapeworm, and so your cat will need to be treated with a tapewormer every 6 months.

## Can humans catch worms from cats?

Some worms can certainly cause major health problems in humans, particularly children. Although not common, roundworm infestation has been known to cause blindness in humans.

It is important to be aware that worming preparations for humans will not generally protect against these feline worms. The best way to protect your family is to make sure that any household pets are regularly wormed.

## How else can I protect my family from worms?

- Encourage children to wash their hands after playing with the family cat.
- Cats should not be allowed to use children's sandpits and play areas as a toilet.

Worming products can be purchased over the counter at the clinic at any time and our nursing staff will be happy to advise you on the best product for your cat.

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