

# PROTECTING DOGS, CATS AND YOUR FAMILY AGAINST WORMS.



# Helpful tips to keep your pets happy and healthy.



### 1) Provide a clean environment

Intestinal parasites common to dogs and cats not only spread from animal to animal, they can also spread from animals to people. This is called parasitic zoonosis (zō-ō-nō´sis). Every year, thousands of people become infected with parasites from eggs or larvae passed in the feces of infected animals.† These infected animals can contaminate the dirt, grass or other objects in their surrounding environments. This can cause human infection, such as skin rashes, intestinal disease, blindness, coma or death. Providing a clean environment not only protects your pet, but you and your family as well.

#### You can minimize this risk by taking the following actions:

- Keep your pet's surroundings clean inside and free of feces outside to avoid the spread of intestinal parasites.
- Use a plastic bag or "pooper scooper" to pick up all of your pet's fecal matter deposited in public areas.

#### 2) Visit your veterinarian regularly

Be proactive with worm prevention by bringing your pet and a fresh fecal sample in for regular checkups and communicating with your veterinarian.

- Veterinarians can protect pets from internal parasites by providing a therapeutic and preventive deworming product.
- Make your veterinarian aware of any changes in your pet's environment, behavior and his or her travel history.



## 3) Deworm your pets on a regular schedule

- Using a highly effective, broad spectrum dewormer can reduce the risk of infections in pets or people due to parasites such as roundworms, hookworms and tapeworms.
- Many medications aimed at preventing heartworm disease also help prevent certain intestinal parasites. While this is helpful, some of these preventatives do not protect against all dangerous zoonotic parasites and may not fully remove others.



†Center for Disease Control and Prevention and The American Association of Veterinary Parasitologist



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