



HEPBURN VETERINARY CLINIC

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Worming:

Kittens and puppies need to be wormed for intestinal worms from around 3 weeks of age and each animal should be weighed before each treatment, as the dosage of wormer is weight dependant - too little will be ineffective and too much may cause illness.

There are a wide variety of wormers on the market and they can come as syrups, pastes, spot-ons or tablets. Your choice may be dependant on what your pet will tolerate best, a recommendation by your Veterinary staff or cost of treatment.

Kittens and puppies should be wormed every 2 weeks until they are 12 weeks of age, then monthly until they are 6 months of age. After this worming once every 3 months for the rest of their lives is sufficient.

It is worth noting that many animals present with no clinical signs of a worm infestation, while others may present with poor body condition, soft or bloody stools, loss of appetite, a pot-bellied appearance and weight loss.

Although we are not in a particularly heartworm prevalent area, some owners may wish to treat their dogs with heartworm prevention. Again, there are numerous products available on the market, which can be administered on a daily, monthly or yearly basis and come in the form of tablets, chews, spot-ons or injections. Generally animals that do not commence heartworm medication as part of their regular worming routine as puppies and kittens, should be tested for heartworm before they commence preventative medication as some medications can have adverse effects for animals that already carry heartworm. Some heartworm medications will also treat intestinal worms, while others may also cover additional parasites, such as fleas or mites as well.

Flea Treatment:

Flea treatments can be used on a regular basis as a preventative measure or may only be utilised if animals have a problem with fleas, depending on your personal preference or advice from Veterinary staff. Products available for flea prevention or control come in sprays, powders and spot-ons.

In cases where an animal is suffering from fleas, the environment will generally need to be treated as well to avoid re-infestation.

There are numerous products available, such as flea bombs, foggers and mists for your house, which contain insect growth regulators (IGR's) and can provide up to 12 months protection. There are also yard sprays or rinses, which can be applied to specific areas in the home and outside, including kennels and most of these also contain insect growth regulators

Additionally there are some treatments, such as Revolution and Advocate, which treat both fleas, mites and most intestinal worms (with the exception of tapeworm). Some even do heartworm prevention as well.