

Intestinal Worms

Hookworm (*Ancylostoma* and *Uncinaria Species*)

Hookworms live in the small intestine and suck blood from their host. They cause anaemia, severe diarrhoea, vomiting, dehydration and death. Puppies and kittens are most severely affected. Cats and dogs usually become infected by ingesting worm larvae in the faeces of other animals, but can also develop infection if worm larvae migrate through their skin.

Humans can also become infected by ingesting worm larvae in animal faeces or via larval migration through the skin. **Families with young children should worm their pets monthly.**

*Please note, in northern Queensland the hookworm *Ancylostoma braziliense* is present. Supermarket worming products DO NOT KILL this species of hookworm. We have seen puppies and kittens die of hookworm after being wormed by supermarket products. In cats, **Drontal, Milbemax, Profender, Advocate and Revolution** are all effective against ALL SPECIES of hookworm found in Mackay.*

Ancylostoma braziliense* | *Ancylostoma tubaeforme* | *Uncinaria stenocephala



Roundworms (*Toxocara* and *Toxascaris Species*)

Roundworms live in the small intestine and feed from intestinal contents. Signs of infection include diarrhoea, vomiting, poor weight gain and rough hair coat. Severe infection causes a "pot-bellied" appearance and can result in an obstructed bowel which can be life-threatening in very young animals. Kittens and puppies can become infected by ingesting eggs in faeces, via their mother's milk or by transfer across the placenta before they are

born. This is why it is important that *pregnant bitches and queens are wormed at around day 40 of pregnancy.*

Humans can become infected by contact with infected dog and cat faeces and larvae can migrate into internal organs or the eye, resulting in loss of sight.

Toxascaris leonina* | *Toxocara canis* | *Toxocara cati

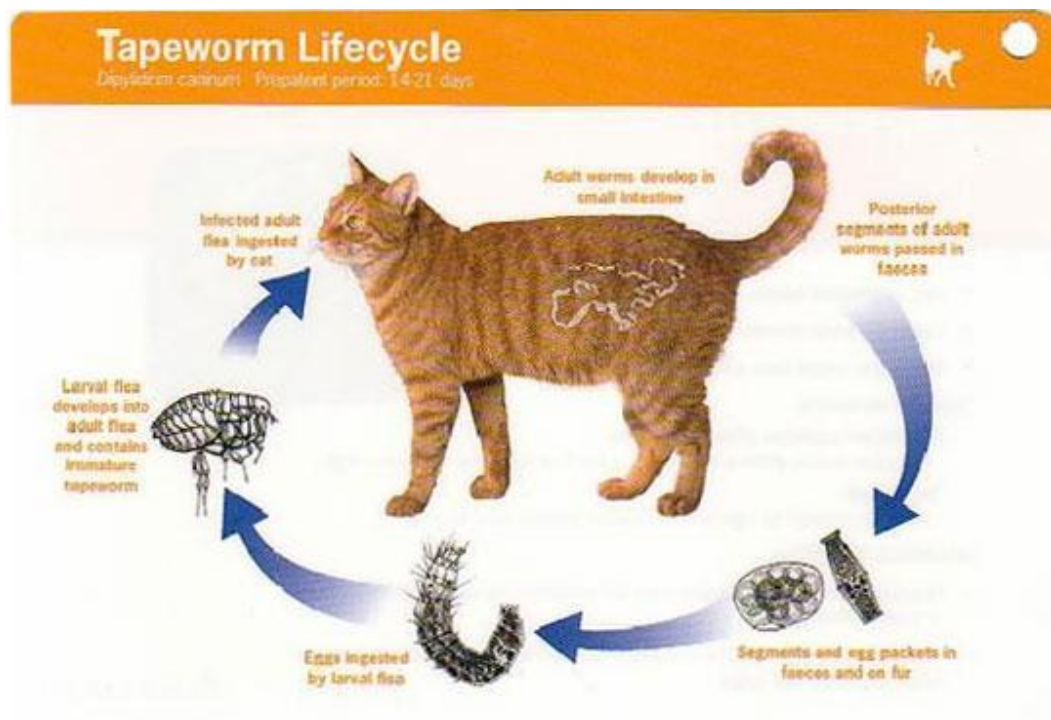


Tapeworms (Several Species)

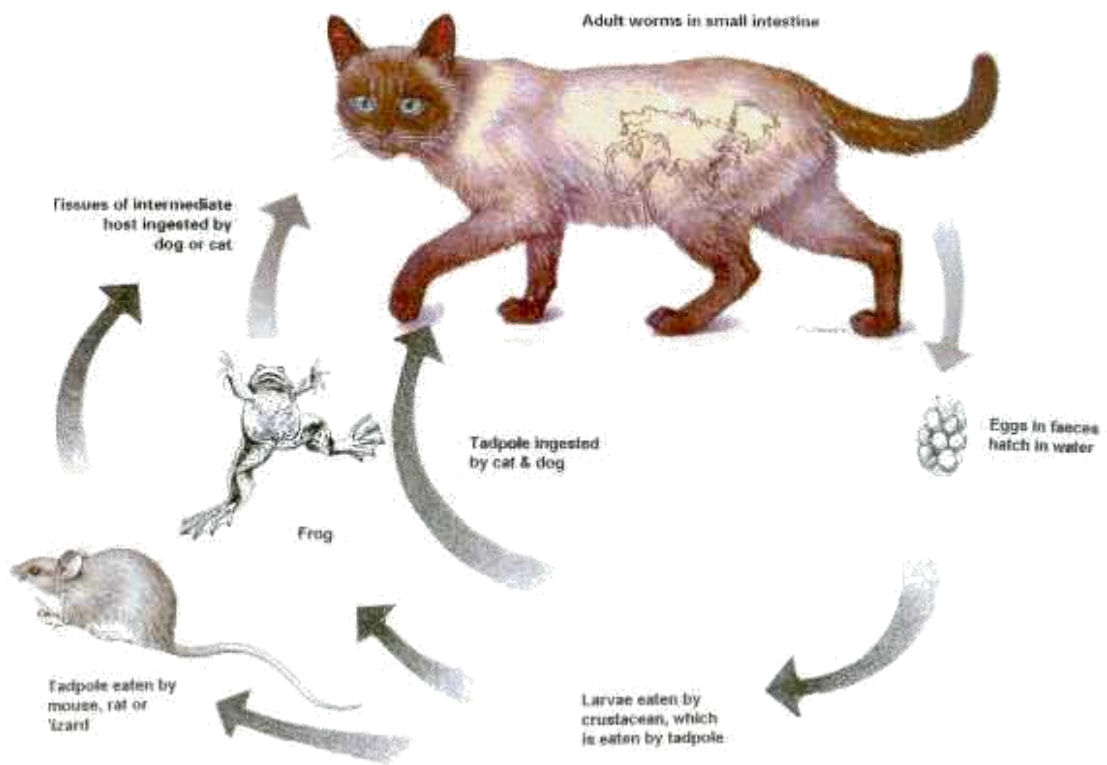
There are several different species of cat tapeworm. Cats become infected by ingesting an *intermediate host* containing the worm larvae. Intermediate hosts may be fleas (most common tapeworm in cats), small rodents or reptiles (geckos, skinks etc). Cats can also contract tapeworm from eating raw meat or offal. Signs of tapeworm infestation include inappetence, weight loss and occasionally vomiting or diarrhoea. Small, white worm segments may also be seen in the faeces.

Cats should be wormed for tapeworm every three months or every 4-6 weeks if a hunter. *Note that if treating for the Spirometra tapeworm (carried by skinks and geckos), your cat will require FOUR TIMES THE USUAL DOSE of tapeworming medication (see below).*

Dipylidium caninum (flea tapeworm)



Spirometra erinacei



Taenia species (found in raw meat and offal)



Recommended intestinal worm prevention/treatment

Kittens

2-12 weeks of age: intestinal worm prevention *every two weeks*.

3-6 months of age: worm *every month*.

Over 6 months of age: worm *every three months*.

Adult cats

Should receive intestinal worm prevention *every three months*.

Cats who hunt outside may need additional tapeworm prevention every 4-6 weeks.

Three products registered for use in cats treat ALL INTESTINAL WORMS (including tapeworm): ***Drontal*** and ***Milbemax*** tablets and ***Profender*** spot-on (applied to the skin on the back of the neck).

Profender is especially useful for those cats who are very difficult to tablet!

For additional TAPEWORM prevention, use ***Droncit*** tablets.

Advocate and ***Revolution*** are monthly spot-ons that prevent roundworm and hookworm (as well as fleas and heartworm) but NOT TAPEWORM. Therefore ***Droncit*** should be administered every three months in addition to either of these products.