

WHY IS TESTING MY PET'S FECAL SAMPLE SO IMPORTANT?



1

Why is a fecal test important?

By testing your pet's fecal sample, your veterinarian is able to check your pet for intestinal parasites (such as roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, giardia, tapeworms, or coccidia).

2

Why do you need to know if my pet has intestinal parasites?

So many reasons! But here are some of the most important:



These unwelcome critters can cause a lot of issues if left untreated! Some of these parasites can cause anemia, vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, or skin issues.

Can the human members of my family get parasites from my cat or dog?

Several of these intestinal parasites are zoonotic, meaning they can be spread between animals and people. While some may not cause any issues in the human body, others can cause minor to severe symptoms, so protecting your pet against intestinal parasites protects your whole family, too!



3

How do I submit the perfect fecal sample?

The fresher, the better! Make sure that sample is less than 24 hours old. An old, hard sample will be much more difficult to work with and may be less accurate. You don't need a lot of feces, either! Just a sample the size of a large grape.

4

How often do I need to test my pet for parasites?

The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommends testing puppies and kittens 2-4 times in their first year, and adult pets twice annually.

5

What else can I do to protect my pets & family from intestinal parasites?

In addition to annual physical exams and fecal screenings twice yearly, the best way to protect everyone in your household is to keep your pet on year-round flea, tick, & heartworm prevention. Good hygiene is also key in preventing spread of intestinal parasites: not only washing your hands, but cleaning up after your pet when you go on walks, wiping their paws after a day at doggy day camp, and cleaning up after your pet in your backyard, too!

For more information, we encourage you to check out the CAPC website:

<https://capcvet.org/>



Or the CAPC companion website, Pets & Parasites:

<https://www.petsandparasites.org/>





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