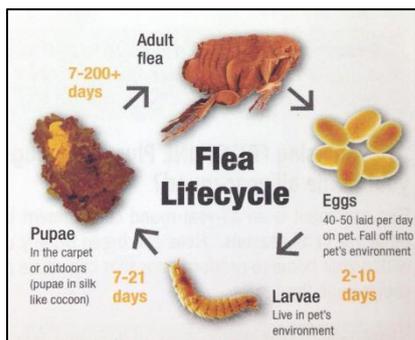


## November - December Fleas & worms

### Fleas

**Summer is coming** and that means fleas! First of all, what are fleas? Fleas are insects that feed on your dog and/or cat's blood and can cause a lot of discomfort and more serious health problems.

Flea bites may go unnoticed on some pets, cause slight irritation in others, and produce extensive itching, red lesions, hair loss and even ulcers in those animals with flea allergy dermatitis, which is the result of extreme sensitivity to flea saliva. Severe flea infestations can cause anaemia, especially in puppies and kittens. Fleas can also transmit tapeworm.



#### About fleas...

Adult fleas are wingless insects, generally smaller than a sesame seed, who feed on the blood of animals. Their proportionally enlarged back pair of legs gives them an extraordinary jumping ability.

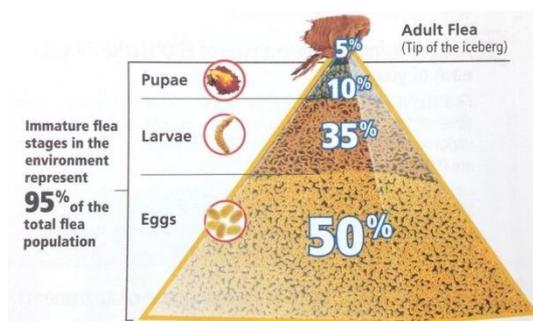
If one flea finds your dog or cat an attractive food source, you can be sure that other fleas will, too! They mate, with females laying 20-50 eggs per day. These eggs will drop to the ground within 8 hours and, as soon as 2 days later flea larvae will hatch and hide in dark places on the ground, in carpets or upholstery. After about a week of feeding on adult flea droppings, crumbs, flakes of skin etc., the larvae spin cocoons to become pupae. The pupae can remain in this stage for very long periods of time. The cycle continues when, as soon as a week or so later, the pupae develop into adult fleas and emerge from their cocoons when they sense that a dog or cat, or other animal host is near. The cycle – which can take as little as 12 days or as long as 180 days – can then begin again.

#### When a parasite picks your pet for a meal

If, despite your best efforts at control, you find that fleas have crawled (or jumped) on board your pet, you will have to use a product that will kill and/or repel the parasites. These include topical treatments, oral treatments and specific veterinary collars such as Seresto. You should ask your veterinarian for advice about what the most appropriate product for your pet is. It is perfectly normal to see live fleas on a pet immediately after a treatment is applied. Many people believe this means the product is not working, but the fleas have to fully absorb the product before they will be affected, which may take from a few hours to a few days.

#### Controlling fleas

The best way to control flea problems is to prevent them from happening in the first place. Fortunately, developments in veterinary parasite control in recent years have made the twofold goal of eliminating fleas on pets and preventing further infestations much easier to achieve. Available for both dogs and cats, new insecticides and insect growth regulators in easy-to-use topical or oral forms not only eliminate any existing fleas, but also work long-term to prevent future infestations. This, is accomplished either by killing the parasites before they can reproduce or by preventing their eggs from developing into normal adult fleas. Thorough daily vacuuming of high-traffic areas and frequent washing of your pet's bedding will also go a long way in reducing the flea population in your home.



## Worms

### Hookworms

In dogs, hookworm infection occurs through ingestion or skin penetration of larvae found in the stools or soil contaminated by faeces of an infected animal. The larvae then develop and migrate to the intestines where they hook onto the intestinal wall and feast on the host's blood. The larvae of hookworms can penetrate the skin and infect humans through contact with soil or sand contaminated by faeces of host dogs or cats. In a human host, the hookworm larvae do not migrate to the intestines as they do in pets. Instead, they move around under the skin and eventually die causing an inflammatory skin reaction known as cutaneous larva migrans, or "creeping eruptions". It is important to keep your pet free of hookworms with good hygiene, preventative medication and regular veterinary check ups.

### Roundworms

Roundworms are parasitic worms that are round in shape, live in a dog's intestines and consume partially digested food. Unlike hookworms, they do not attach to the intestinal wall, but literally swim in their food. Adult worms resemble spaghetti and may come out in the faeces or vomit of an infected dog. Transmission to dogs is through eggs in faeces which contaminate soil that may be ingested, eating prey animal that is a host (usually rodents), mothers milk etc. In dogs, roundworms cause diarrhoea, vomiting and in extreme cases pneumonia and intestinal obstruction. In humans, roundworms can cause a serious condition known as visceral larva migrans. Most victims are children who are infected when putting contaminated fingers into their mouths. Once ingested, the roundworm larvae, though not in its usual host, tries to complete its lifecycle. The roundworm gets lost in the human body, usually in the eye, dies and generates an inflammatory reaction that

can cause blindness. Proper handwashing can prevent infection. Deworming puppies and preventative medication while reducing environmental contamination.

### Tapeworms

There are various species of tapeworms that infect dogs, and this can occur in different ways, such as transmission from fleas, or by ingesting infected raw offal, depending on the particular species of tapeworm involved. Tapeworms in the intestine can cause symptoms varying from unthriftiness and malaise, to colic and mild diarrhoea, depending on the degree of infection, parasite species, and the age and condition of the affected dog. Transmission to humans of certain species of tapeworm usually occurs via accidental ingestion of the eggs present in dog faeces and can have serious repercussions. Preventative medication including regular worming and effective flea control, as well as avoiding feeding your dog raw meat or offal, will significantly reduce the chance of canine and human infections.

### Whipworms

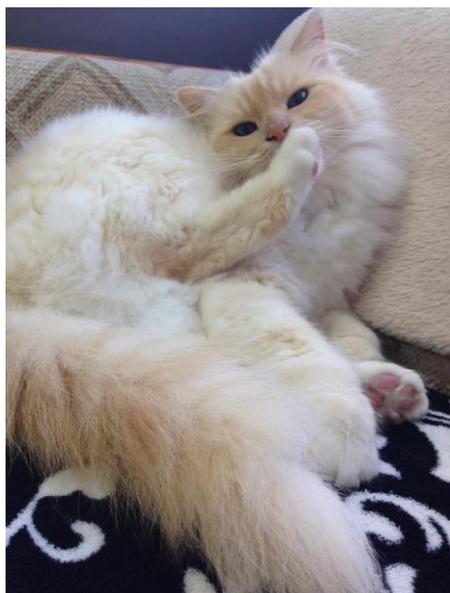
The only way a dog can contract whipworms is by ingesting the eggs. When a dog walks on ground infected by eggs, they are picked up on the paws and travel into the mouth when they lick their paws or any contaminated toys or food bowls. Whipworm eggs can survive extreme exterior conditions for months and even years. Within one to three months after the eggs are swallowed they hatch in the dog's intestine, attach to the wall and begin to suck blood and lay eggs. In dogs, whipworm can cause diarrhoea, weight loss and in some cases, anaemia. Whipworm infection in humans is extremely rare.

Pop in store and purchase any pack of Revolution flea treatment for your pet and you could be in to win a 7 day trip to Fiji plus 7 prizes to be won each month until February 2016!



## Magnificent Mack

This week's featured pet is Mack, our gorgeous 4 ½ year old cream birman. He has been coming to visit us since he was just a wee kitten. Mack enjoys a brush from time to time and is always asking for a pedicure when he's in the cattery for a holiday. Did we mention he thinks he rules the roost?!



## Cattery



Have you met Meowsie? Meowsie is the latest addition to our cattery and is currently up for adoption! She is a sweet 12 year old girl who loves a brush! If you think you could give Meowsie her forever home then pop in and see us to discuss!

## Chews wisely..

Introducing Ceva's newest product! The Prozym range is an exciting new dental range for pets that contains the unique active ingredient RF2. Biofilm is the first stage of dental plaque and RF2 eliminates this biofilm that is caused by bacteria in your pet's

mouth. This Prozym range comes in the form of dental chew sticks, toothpaste and a drinking water additive.



## Did you know?

? For every adult flea on your pet, there are around 100 immature fleas in the animals environment

? Each female flea lays around 50 eggs per day

? Fatty foods and meat trimmings can induce pancreatic inflammation



? Dogs and cats can get skin cancer

? Alcohol can cause seizures or respiratory failure if consumed by a pet. Watch out for alcohol hidden in places, like desserts, sauces and the yeast in raw dough!

## Guy Fawkes fireworks

With fireworks displays only a few sleeps away, it is a good idea to plan ways to reduce our pets stress levels during this time. Adaptil collars and diffusers are a great way to do this as they contain a synthetic dog appeasing pheromone to help calm, relax and minimise the stress and anxiety for dogs in unusual and scary situations. Pop in store to find out more and collect yours today.



## New puppy? Do you need help?

Our puppy pre-school classes are up and running now so if you have a new puppy and are interested in some socialising and basic training let us know so we can fit you into our next classes!

## Keep us updated...

We love to hear from our clients so remember if you move or change your phone number please keep us up to date with your new contact details.



## Clinic Hours

Monday – Friday 8am to 7pm  
Saturday – 8.30am to 12.30pm

## Afterhours

Although we close at 7pm each weeknight and 12.30pm on a Saturday there is always a vet available at the Wellington After Hours Veterinary Clinic.

The Wellington After Hours Veterinary Clinic have full facilities so can provide full medical and surgical treatments for your pets when they are in need. They are situated at 5 McCormack Place, Ngauranga, Wellington (at the bottom of the Ngauranga Gorge). They can be contacted via phone on 04 473 7545. We recommend giving them a quick phone call before you travel there so the vet is expecting you.