

# TidBITS On-Line

Port Elgin Veterinary Clinic Information for pets... and their families

Parasite infections are common and can be easily transmitted. In the most serious cases, parasites can cause life-threatening illnesses or even death to your pet. Fleas, ticks, and internal parasites are the most common parasites affecting pets.

Controlling parasites is a reliable way of ensuring that your pet lives a healthy life. Parasite control is also an important part of keeping the people in your household healthy. Although uncommon in Canada, some parasites of pets can be transmitted to people and can cause discomfort or serious illness.

It is important to remember that each pet and its parasites are different. We will talk to you about the parasites that may infect your dog or cat at each visit.

*What should I do to prevent my pet and my family members from getting parasites?*

- Keep pets away from wildlife (e.g. raccoons, coyotes, birds) and stray animals.
- Keep wildlife out of your yard and cover sandboxes when not in use.
- Regularly check your animal for signs of fleas and ticks.
- Avoid overgrown grass and brush in yards which can be infested with ticks.
- Ensure your pet has at least one physical examination each year.
- Regular fecal monitoring (we recommend fecal analysis twice yearly)
- Appropriate parasite control program suited to each pet based on their age, location, health status and lifestyle factors.
- Promptly remove and properly dispose of pet feces- STOOP and SCOOP!
- Wash your hands and children's hands with soap and water after outdoor activities, handling pets, pet feces disposal and before meals
- Wear gloves while gardening

