



## **Internal Parasite Control**

All cats, dogs, kittens and puppies are given a de-wormer (Ponazuril, Pyrantel or Ivermectin) when they arrive at the Bay Area Humane Society. This is the **first** treatment for the most common parasites found in this area – roundworms and hookworms. ***Additional treatments may be needed.***

Be sure to schedule an appointment with your veterinarian immediately for a physical examination and a fecal test (you will need to bring a stool sample with you to that appointment). Your veterinarian will determine if additional treatment for parasites is needed.

Some internal parasites are zoonotic, which means that they can be transmitted from animals to humans. Young children, the elderly and immune suppressed individuals are more likely to become infected. Practicing good hygiene through hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of parasites to humans. It is also very important to make sure that your pets are not carrying parasites through routine de-worming.

Most parasites are easily treated by your veterinarian with medication. You can also prevent re-infestation by keeping your dog yard free of feces and keeping litter boxes clean (scooping at least once a day).

## **Common Internal Parasites:**

***Roundworms and Hookworms:*** Usually transmitted from mother to offspring, may appear as long white worms in stool. Treated with medication and cleaning the environment (removing feces)

**All animals are dewormed upon intake for roundworms and hookworms**

***Giardia:*** Single cell parasite, often found in the environment and in contaminated water. May cause diarrhea and weight loss, especially in young animals. Treated with medication, bathing infected animals, and cleaning environment (removing feces)

***Tapeworm:*** Transmitted by ingestion of fleas and of rodents, may appear as small white rice-like segments in the stool. Treated with medication.

**Only animals showing symptoms for internal parasites receive a fecal examination and treated as necessary.**