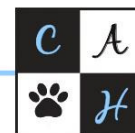


## PARASITE INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cambridge Animal Hospital  
1610 Pace Street #400  
Longmont, CO 80501

**Cambridge**  
**Animal Hospital**



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pet's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

**GI Parasites:** Cats and dogs can become infected with several types of GI parasites, including roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms. Many kittens and puppies are infected prior to or just after birth. Adult dogs and cats can become infected by ingesting parasite eggs in soil or grass contaminated by the fecal material of other pets and wildlife or by ingesting animals (such as rabbits and rodents) that they hunt. Infection with these parasites can occur year-round and is not limited just to the warmer months.

In addition to causing problems such as anemia, weight loss and discomfort to the pet, some of these parasites can be transmitted from the pet to their human family members. This is especially of concern in owners who have weaker immune systems (young children, elderly owners, owners with diseases such as cancer or HIV).

For this reason, we at Cambridge Animal Hospital recommend the following:

- 1) **Fecal screens for parasites:** Annual testing is recommended in dogs and cats. More frequent testing is indicated in pets that hunt or have outdoor access.
- 2) **Year-Round heartworm prevention in dogs:** The heartworm pills that we prescribe not only prevent heartworm disease in the warm months, but they act as a monthly dewormer even in the winter months when GI parasite transmission is still a risk.
- 3) **Profender deworming of cats:** Profender is a topical dewormer that is applied to the skin of the neck. We recommend annual deworming for all cats with more frequent deworming (every 3-6 months) in cats that hunt or have access to the outdoors.

**Heartworm Disease:** Heartworms are parasites transmitted via mosquito bites to dogs and cats. The immature worms are injected during the bite and over a period of 4 months they travel to the heart and large blood vessels in the lungs where they mature and cause inflammation and clots. If left untreated, heartworms can cause severe heart and lung disease and can be fatal. Preventing this infection is much safer and more cost effective than trying to remove the adult worms. Because of the severe damage these parasites can do, and because of the risk of side effects in certain dogs given a heartworm prevention pill while already infected with heartworms, annual testing is recommended for dogs, even those already on prevention. Testing is required in all dogs over 6 months of age before starting or re-starting heartworm pills.

Heartworm prevention is available for cats, but the prevalence of heartworm disease in cats in Colorado is currently unknown. Please let us know if you are interested in heartworm prevention for your cat.

Please sign below to indicate that you understand the risk of these parasites (GI and heartworms) to your pets and your family. If you decline any of the recommendations above, please initial them as well.

Signature of owner/authorized agent: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I decline fecal testing for GI parasites and understand the risk to my pet and to humans.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Dogs only) I declined heartworm testing and understand the risk to my pet.

\_\_\_\_\_ I decline deworming (cats) or heartworm prevention (dogs) and understand the risk to my pet and to humans.