

# Queen Elizabeth's Top 5 Parasites. What's eating your pet?

Why do we do annual parasite tests? I'll give you five reasons why....

## ROUNDWORMS



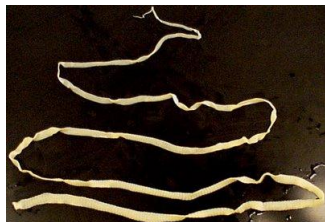
- ❗ Roundworms are intestinal parasites.
- ❗ Puppies and kittens are usually infected through their mother's placenta or milk, or through ingesting infected feces.
- ❗ In adult animals infection occurs through contact with infected feces, through the animal's skin, with ingestion of infected water, or through intermediate hosts (for example: mice).
- ❗ 15% of commercial potting soil contains roundworms. That means indoor pets are not exempt from infection.
- ❗ Roundworms are transmittable to humans and in severe cases can cause blindness.
- ❗ Routine parasite screenings and a monthly de-worming medication (Such as Interceptor©) aid in the prevention of roundworms.

## GIARDIA

- ❗ Giardia is Orchard Animal Clinic's most commonly diagnosed intestinal parasite.
- ❗ This particular parasite is MICROSCOPIC! You cannot see them with the naked eye.
- ❗ They commonly cause slight to severe diarrhea, but sometimes pets can be infected and not show any symptoms.
- ❗ Infection for dogs and cats usually occurs when pets ingest infected water or feces.
- ❗ Routine parasite screenings help us detect Giardia.



## TAPEWORMS



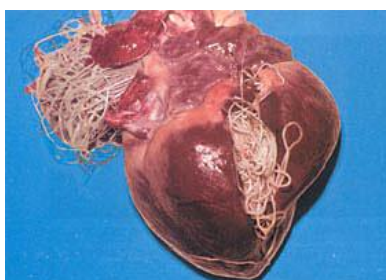
- ❗ Tapeworms are intestinal parasites.
- ❗ They are spread to dogs and cats by "intermediate hosts." Usually those hosts are mice, birds, or fleas.
- ❗ Tapeworms can cause diarrhea, weight loss, and discomfort.
- ❗ Usually tape worms are detected when visualized on your pet's fur near their bottom.

## TICKS

- ❗ Ticks are parasites that usually attach to the skin of an animal.
- ❗ They survive on the blood of their host. When they are eating particularly well they become engorged- like the one in this photo.
- ❗ Ticks can spread disease, although it is relatively uncommon in Boise.
- ❗ We recommend using Frontline© as a monthly flea & tick preventative. It's a safe, effective medication when used properly.



## HEARTWORMS



- ❗ Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes. They are a worm that lives in the heart. They are most commonly found in dogs.
- ❗ Once we thought Idaho was safe from Heartworms, but now we're beginning to understand that we're at risk too.
- ❗ Heartworms are easily prevented by a once a month chewable tablet called Interceptor©.
- ❗ Once detected, heartworms are very hard to treat. Prevention is key!