Ticks
These bloodsuckers are difficult to remove and can cause serious diseases, including Lyme disease. Pets are exposed while at parks or on trails, by other animals and sometimes, but uncommonly, by people unknowingly carrying them. Preventive care is recommended. If you don’t know how to properly remove a tick, get help from a veterinarian.

Fleas
The size of a pinhead, this pestly parasite’s bites can be very itchy for pets; excessive scratching can lead to skin infection. Fleas can live a few weeks on pets and lay 20-30 eggs a day, hatching into larvae on pets and in homes. Treating pets and the environment is crucial to keeping both flea-free.

What’s bugging your pet?

EXTERNAL PARASITES

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INTERNAL PARASITES

Tapeworms
These flat worms have a head, neck and segments with their own reproductive system and can grow up to 8 inches. Fleas eat tapeworm eggs. The eggs hatch inside the fleas. Pets become infected by swallowing the fleas. The tapeworms are then free to anchor to the pet’s intestinal lining and mature. Segments of the worm break off and appear in pet stool and/or around the rectum and look like a piece of rice or a sesame seed. Immediate treatment is recommended.

Roundworms
Common in puppies and kittens, contraction spreads from the mother before birth or from her milk, or by ingesting roundworm eggs found in soil, water, feces or vomit. When eggs hatch, the larvae spread into your pet’s liver and windpipe. Coughing pushes the larvae into the intestines where they can lay more eggs.

Heartworms
These parasitic worms are spread by infected mosquitoes that bite pets; the larvae live inside the pet’s bloodstream and mature into worms inside the heart. Preventive care is recommended, especially for cats, for whom there is no approved treatment if infected. Heartworm infestation can be fatal to pets.

Discuss parasitic prevention and treatment with your veterinarian before starting a prevention program at home. Testing and proper dosage amounts are necessary to determine your pet’s parasitic treatment or preventive care needs.

Whole Pet with Wellness® offers 90% coverage for these parasites and much more. Get a quote at petinsurance.com. For more information on pets and parasites, please visit PestyParasites.com.

Signs of parasitic infection include coughing, fatigue, vomiting and abdominal swelling, diarrhea, and loss of appetite.