

COULD THIS
BE LIVING IN
YOUR CAT?

The information in this brochure is derived from the Companion Animal Parasite Council's (CAPC) Guidelines.

**For more information,
please visit**

www.knowheartworms.org

What can I do?

Any parasite can have a negative impact on the relationship between you and your pet. There are things you can do to prevent your cat from getting a parasitic infection. Some important preventive measures include practicing good personal hygiene, treating your cat with internal and external parasite treatment and control medication, regularly cleaning your cat's litter box, only feeding your cat cooked or prepared food and not allowing your cat to hunt.



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**Protect Your Cat
from Parasites**

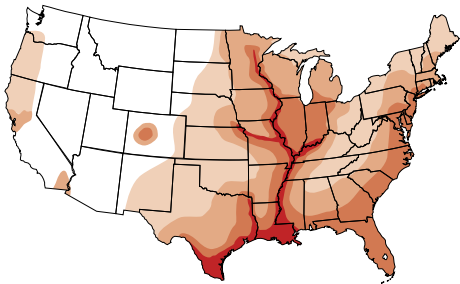


How can I tell if my cat has parasites?

Some parasites are easier than others to recognize. If you see changes in your cat's grooming habits, notice your cat consistently scratching or observe patches of hair loss, it is possible your cat has fleas or mites. Intestinal parasites are usually only diagnosed with a veterinary exam and analysis of your cat's feces. Heartworm disease can be particularly devastating and is difficult to diagnose. This is why it's important to have your cat examined annually and placed on year-round prevention.

How does a cat get a parasite?

Parasites can attack your cat in many different ways. Heartworm is contracted when an infected mosquito bites a cat. Roundworms are contracted when your cat ingests worm eggs that have been passed through the feces of an infected cat or dog. Tapeworms can be contracted if your cat eats fleas or other hosts (such as rodents) that carry tapeworm larvae. Other intestinal worm larvae can be passed through the mother cat's milk to her kitten. Another unique parasite is a hookworm, whose larvae thrive in moist soil. Your cat can simply step on a larva and it can pass through the skin of its paw. Still other parasites, mites, for example, can be contracted if your cat has direct contact with



Heartworm disease has been diagnosed in all 50 states. This map shows particularly endemic regions.



There are many options available that will protect your pet from the most common parasites.

an infected cat. Considering all the ways your cat could become infected, it would be impossible for you to make sure your cat avoids all the possible situations. Therefore, it is necessary to give your cat preventive medication. There are many options available that will protect your pet from the most common parasites.

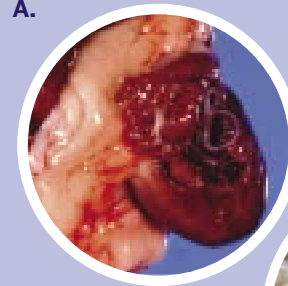
Can my cat give me a parasite?

Yes, there are many different parasites that can be shared between cats and humans. The most common is roundworms; 3 to 6 million people in the United States are infected with roundworm larvae each year.

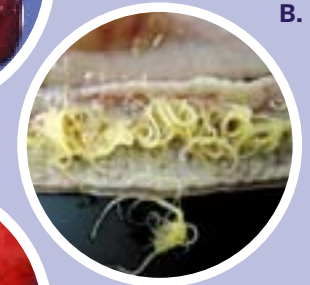
Animal parasites that can cause disease in humans:

- Fleas
- Heartworms
- Hookworms
- Roundworms
- Sarcoptic Mange
- Tapeworms
- Ticks
- Toxoplasma

A.



B.



C.



A: Adult heartworm inside a feline heart

B: Roundworms in the intestine

C: Lung inflamed due to adult heartworm infection