

Fleas, Ticks and Worms Explained

Family Matters

When people think about parasites, they often think of an itchy dog or a scratching cat.

The reality is that fleas, ticks and worms are much more than just a nuisance. Left untreated, they can affect your pet's health, spread disease and, in some cases, even pose a risk to your family.

At Amity, we believe that understanding parasites is the first step in preventing them. Our purpose is simple: **Empower You Through Education**, helping you keep your pet healthy all year round.

Fleas – Small Parasites, Big Problems

Fleas are the most common external parasite affecting dogs and cats.

A single flea can lay dozens of eggs every day, meaning a small problem can quickly become a large infestation.

Fleas don't just cause itching. They can also trigger skin allergies, transmit tapeworms and, in young or vulnerable animals, even lead to anaemia.

Perhaps the biggest surprise is that **most of a flea infestation isn't actually on your pet**—it's in your home, hidden in carpets, bedding and soft furnishings.

Ticks – Tiny but Important

Ticks attach themselves while feeding and are commonly picked up in long grass, woodland and the countryside.

While many ticks can be removed safely, they may carry diseases, so it's important to check your pet after walks. The sooner a tick is removed, the lower the chance of disease transmission.

Worms – The Hidden Parasites

Unlike fleas and ticks, worms usually can't be seen.

Many owners assume that if they can't see worms in their pet's faeces, their pet must be worm-free. Unfortunately, that's often not the case.

Most worms live inside the intestines and shed microscopic eggs rather than visible worms. **The only reliable way to check for most intestinal worms is by examining a faecal sample under a microscope.** By the time you can see worms with the naked eye, your pet may already have a significant infestation.

Dogs and cats can become infected from their mother, eating infected prey, contact with contaminated environments or swallowing fleas carrying tapeworm larvae.

Some worms cause few obvious signs, while others can lead to weight loss, diarrhoea, vomiting, poor growth and serious illness. Some intestinal worms can also infect people, particularly young children, making regular parasite control an important part of protecting the whole family.

Prevention Is Easier Than Treatment

The good news is that parasite prevention is usually straightforward.

Modern parasite treatments are safe and effective, but there is no single solution that's right for every pet. The most appropriate treatment depends on your pet's age, lifestyle, environment and risk factors.

A Plan That's Right for Your Pet

At Amity, we don't believe in a one-size-fits-all approach.

We'll discuss your pet's lifestyle and recommend a parasite prevention plan tailored specifically to them. As their lifestyle changes throughout life, so can their protection.

That's why **Amity Essential Membership includes unlimited health checks**, giving you the opportunity to ask questions, review your pet's parasite control and ensure they remain protected throughout the year.

Prevention Protects the Whole Family

Protecting your pet from parasites isn't simply about avoiding itching or worms.

It's about protecting their comfort, their long-term health and the wellbeing of your family.

Because preventing disease is always kinder than treating it.

After all, your pet depends on you to keep them safe.

And we're here to help you do exactly that.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.