



# CHB VETS LTD

5 Northumberland Street, Waipukurau

ph 06 858 6555

e: reception@chbvets.nz

Veterinary newsletter

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## Itchy, scratchy?

At this time of year with the heat and dust, many skin problems show up in our animals.

These conditions may be difficult to deal with and can be very irritating for the animal, and for you as their companion. To identify the cause of the itching involves a process of elimination of the different factors involved:

- Number 1: those little critters, fleas. This year the weather conditions have allowed a flea explosion which means there is much more opportunity for your animals to become infested. Luckily for all concerned (except the flea!) we have some very good products available to deal with this problem. The most effective products kill the fleas on the animal and any new ones they pick up.
- Number 2: Animal or plant materials that come in contact with our pets. These include sheepskins, woollen blankets, long grasses and other garden plants. Removing contact with these materials will allow the allergy to resolve.
- Number 3: Food intolerance or allergy. This can be managed through special dietary changes to make sure the proteins in the food are different. Even if an animal has been on the same food for its whole life, it can develop a food intolerance to that food.
- Number 4: Inhaled allergens, which is things like pollens, dust etc. This is a lot harder to prevent because we can't control what is in the air. In these cases we use medications which help moderate the body's reaction to those allergens.

As you can see an 'itchy scratchy' animal can be due to many different causes. Talk to us about how we can identify and manage your animal's itch. And remember—you will notice a dog itching and scratching obviously while a cat may not be quite so obvious. Hair loss and a rough coat can be signs that your cat is very itchy.



#8MONTHSOF EAGER

seresto

# What are Endoparasites?

Endoparasites are parasites that live inside the body

## Roundworms

(*Toxocara cati*, *Toxascaris leoni*)

**Route of infection: How do cats get them?**

- Ingestion of eggs from the environment
- Consuming another animal such as rats or birds which have ingested worm eggs
- Kittens consuming milk from an infected queen

**Symptoms: How do they affect cats?**

- Can be asymptomatic
- Vomiting, diarrhoea
- Slow growth in kittens

**Human infection: Toxocariasis**

- Ingestion of roundworm eggs in contaminated environment, vegetables or infected meat
- Can migrate behind the eye, other body tissues and organs



One of the most common parasites of cats and kittens.



## Hookworms

(*Ancylostoma* spp., *Uncinaria stenocephala*)

**Route of infection: How do cats get them?**

- Larvae from contaminated soil penetrate skin
- Ingestion of larvae

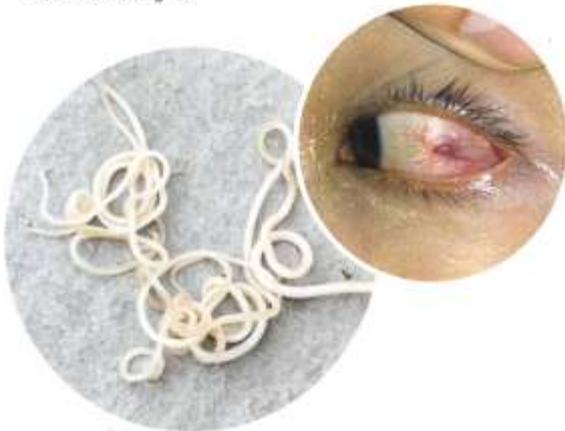
**Symptoms: How do they affect cats?**

- Anaemia, diarrhoea, inappetence, lethargy, weight loss/slow growth
- May be fatal

**Human infection: Toxocariasis**

- Penetrate & migrate under the skin
- Hypersensitivity reaction

Blood-sucking parasites with sharp hook-like teeth to attach to the intestinal wall



## Tapeworms

(*Dipylidium caninum* - Flea tapeworm, *Taenia taeniaeformis* - Cat tapeworm)

**Route of Infection: How do cats get them?**

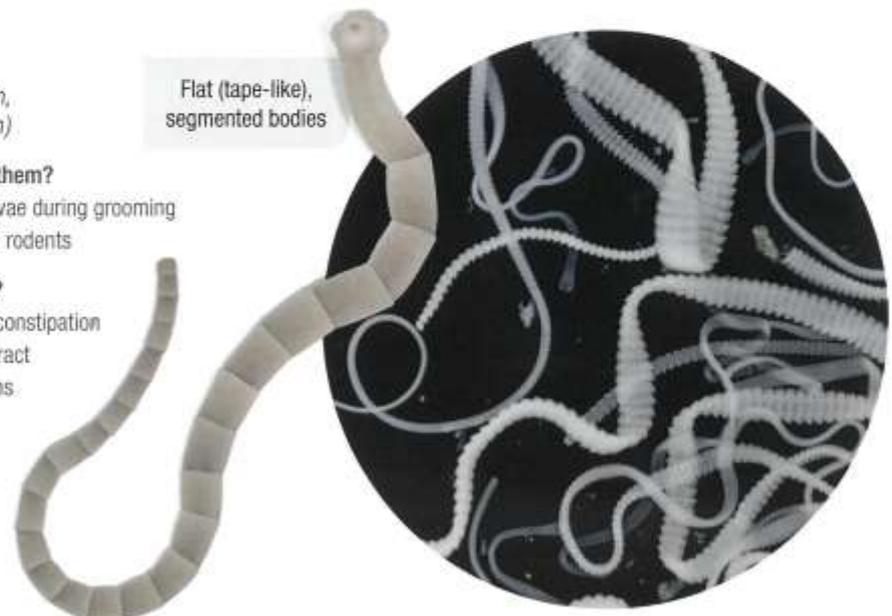
- Flea tapeworm - Swallowing flea larvae during grooming
- Cat tapeworm - Ingestion of infected rodents

**Symptoms: How do they affect cats?**

- Usually asymptomatic, or diarrhoea/constipation
- May cause obstruction of intestinal tract
- Flea tapeworm - Seizures/convulsions

**Human infection: Toxocariasis**

- Most cases are asymptomatic
- More common with flea tapeworms and in children



Flat (tape-like), segmented bodies

## Pink Eye – Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis

Pink eye is an infectious disease of cattle caused by the bacterium *Moraxella bovis*. Pink eye causes conjunctivitis, as well as ulcers on the cornea which can fill with blood vessels giving it the characteristic pink appearance. Other signs include blinking, avoidance of light and discharge. Your vet can usually diagnose this condition by having a look at the eye.

Pink eye is often transmitted from animal to animal by flies. Dust, pollen, light, and long grass can also cause damage to the eye, making it more likely to become infected. Keep an eye out for pink eye at this time of the year when it is starting to get warm and dusty. As well as being painful for the affected animal, pink eye can lead to weight loss and should be treated as soon as possible. It can also lead to rupture of the eyeball and blindness.



Here are some tips to avoid pink eye this summer:

- ◆ Consider use of insecticides to control flies
- ◆ Try to reduce dust (use heavy bedding material in calf pens)
- ◆ Avoid grazing cattle in paddocks with long stalky grass
- ◆ Separate any potentially infected animals as soon as possible to avoid transmitting the disease to others

If you suspect one of your animals has pink eye give us a call to discuss an appointment and treatment options.

Early stage of pinkeye with watery eye

**Haemonchus contortus, commonly known as barber's pole, is a blood-sucking parasite which is found in the stomach of sheep, goats and alpacas. It reproduces very quickly and produces thousands of eggs per day.**

This means the numbers of these worms increase rapidly and they can suck all the blood out of an animal within a number of days. Barber's pole does not cause scouring, so sudden death may be the first and only sign of infection. If you see signs early, you may notice that the animal appears weak, lethargic and may separate itself from the rest of the flock. Affected animals are usually anaemic and any stress or exercise can kill them quickly.

Barber's pole thrives in the warm and wet months of summer. During these months, egg numbers on pasture can build up incredibly high. In ideal conditions, this parasite can complete a life cycle in just 10-14 days and, subsequently, drenches which are specific, and have persistent activity, are recommended. Whilst lambs, goat kids and crias are most susceptible to infection, high worm burdens can also cause deaths in adult animals. Since this parasite is life-threatening, causing rapid illness, prevention is always better than cure. Genesis Ultra is the preferred oral drench recommended to both prevent infection and treat actively infected animals. This product has persistent activity lasting 42 days. Matrix oral drench can also be used; however, this drench lacks persistent activity and therefore animals which are actively infected with barber's pole will require drenching with Matrix every 3 weeks to control disease. If you are unsure which drenching programme to use, then please give us a call to discuss further. It pays to check the meat withholding period if picking lambs for slaughter as some are quite long, and it is also a good idea to know the resistance status of your farm when deciding when and which product to use.

# Cattle Ticks and You

Ticks have been present in parts of Central Hawkes Bay for many years. In more recent years, the occurrence of infestations affecting all species seems to have increased. Changes in local climate and stock movements are the most likely causes. Awareness has further been heightened by the emergence of the tick borne protozoan disease, Theileria.

Ticks are blood sucking external parasites. The common cattle tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, favours cattle but they are not completely host specific and can infest deer, sheep, goats, humans, horses, rabbits, hares and domestic pets. This type of tick, is the only one found in New Zealand. It is called a three host tick, with each of its growing stages - larvae, nymph, and adult feeding off separate hosts, not necessarily of the same species.

The adult female tick, which when fully engorged with blood can grow to approximately 9mm long by 7mm wide, lays hundreds of eggs from which the larvae will hatch on nearby vegetation. The larvae attach to a suitable host and feed before falling to the pasture where they develop to a nymph stage. Nymphs will also attach to a host to feed before detaching and developing into an adult. The time taken for the completion of the life cycle varies considerably from days to months depending on factors such as temperature and the host's immunity developed from previous exposure.



The larvae and nymphal stages of the life cycle position themselves at the tips of long grass or vegetation and attach to the skin of grazing animals or hosts walking through the paddocks. Ticks are obvious on clinical observation and are commonly found on the head, ears, udder and lower body extremities.

## PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Ticks can live without a blood meal for over a year, so leaving pasture un-grazed and hoping the ticks will die from lack of food isn't a very practical option. If you have poorly-drained pasture, your animals are more at risk from picking up ticks, as this is a good habitat for them. It may be best to fence off those areas. Even on well-drained pasture, ticks can hide in the long grass, so topping can help remove their preferred habitat of damp pasture and moist soil. However, it won't affect the eggs.

Heavy grazing by adult cattle and sheep, pugging up the ground, can help destroy eggs but can't be used farm-wide all at once unless you then destock for a time to allow regrowth.

## TICK REMOVAL

For single animals, you can pick ticks off your animals, but it's messy and often when you pull a tick off, its mouth-parts are left inside the skin of the animal, which may cause irritation or even an infection. You can daub them with methylated spirits or tea-tree oil and they will eventually release, but they may still scatter their eggs when they hit the ground. Chemical products include insecticides like Ripcord and Permaxin for horses, and specialist pour-ons and dips for sheep, deer and cattle (Baytical pour-on). In cats and dogs, Frontline, Seresto, Nexgard and Bravecto will kill ticks.

Baytical pour-on is a well known and reliably performing chemical and should be applied from August on to eliminate the early infestations and reduce the build up that will occur with delaying your first application. Interval between applications is 8 weeks and should be combined with good husbandry as mentioned below.

## GOOD ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Ticks are most noticeable and most prevalent from October to February, but early applications will have a significant reduction in summer populations. While chemical products will remove ticks to bring the population down, other extra effort will be required. Hares, rabbits and wild goats and deer are all implicated in the spread of ticks, so if they are a problem in a known tick area, they will help continue the spread.

## VETERINARY RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS FOR MANAGEMENT

At CHB Vets we recommend using Baytical for Prevention and Treatment on your livestock. We also recommend a tick treatment for your working dogs and pets to ensure the tick management program is complete. We have a variety of treatments available from Seresto Collars providing 8 months tick and flea treatment, to chewables like Nexgard which is a monthly chewable treatment providing tick, mite and flea control.

