



Tapeworms

Tapeworms are long, segmented, flat worms that live in the intestines of dogs and cats. Tapeworms produce eggs that are encased within the segments and are passed out in the stool.

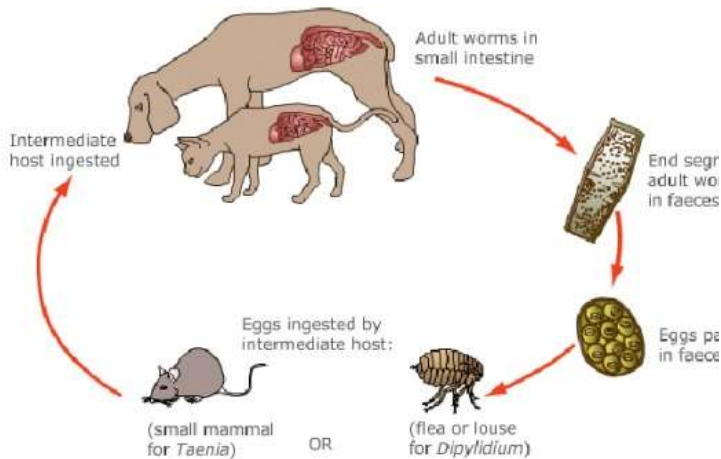
Another animal then eats the eggs and the tapeworm undergoes some changes. Your dog or cat then eats the animal carrying the tapeworm and the developing tapeworm grows into an adult in your pet's small intestine.

Owners may see the segments in the stool or on the fur around the anal area. The segments are flat and tan colored when fresh and may move around. After they have dried, they look like rice grains and are darker in color. You may also notice the segments in the pet's bedding.



Tapeworms are often missed when stool samples are tested. The eggs are not present in the stool unless a segment breaks open and releases them. Unless the segments are obvious in the stool sample, they will be missed.

We will treat your pet based on your observations of the segments. We also advise all pets with fleas to be treated. Only one dose of medicine is needed.



Pets get tapeworms from eating fleas, rabbits, or rodents, the animals carrying tapeworms. They cannot get them directly either from an infested pet or from the soil.

Tapeworms have hooks in their mouths and are able to latch onto the intestinal wall. They feed on the food that your pet has eaten. Signs of tapeworm infestation can include a rough hair coat, weight loss (unusual), diarrhea, or itchiness in the anal area. Often there are no signs.