

Guidelines at a Glance

Diagnosing, treating, and monitoring emerging parasites require a One Health perspective that considers impacts on individual pet health, human and other animal household members, and the wider community and environment. Many parasites that are rapidly emerging worldwide present serious threats to dogs, cats, and people. These guidelines list the characteristics of 12 emerging parasites of most concern in dogs, cats, or both. Nine additional species are identified as emerging parasites of potential concern.

To treat and prevent veterinary patients' parasitic infections or infestations while opposing growing threats of antiparasitic drug resistance, these guidelines recommend antiparasitic drug stewardship principles that incorporate "six rights" of antiparasitic prescribing: right patient, right parasite, right drug, right administration, right disposal, and right monitoring.

The guidelines also provide communication strategies and tools veterinary teams can use to dispel parasite preventive misinformation and engage clients in collaborative pet care and parasite control.

These guidelines are designed to help veterinary teams:

- Adopt a One Health approach to monitoring for, diagnosing, treating, and discussing parasite infections or infestations in dogs and cats
- Apply antiparasitic drug stewardship (ADS) principles to guide the use of antiparasitics
- Recognize when a parasitic infection or other illness may be an emerging concern or a reportable disease
- Learn which emerging parasites are of most concern in dogs and cats
- Select diagnostic tests to confirm infections or infestations
- Treat affected animals
- Educate clients about zoonotic risks and parasite prevention options
- Know when to contact appropriate officials for reportable parasites or illnesses

Meet **Terrance**, official mascot of the *One Health Guidelines: Emerging Concerns in Canine and Feline Parasitology*



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3 Takeaways



For healthy animals, communicate the benefits of routine testing to detect parasites early. For sick animals, emphasize the advantages and limitations of the tests available.



Achieving an accurate diagnosis provides useful information related to infectious disease counseling for clients (e.g., household exposure and effectiveness of current prevention) and follow-up measures. Use appropriate diagnostic tools for the targeted parasites.



Consider potential limitations to client adherence with parasite prevention strategies. Collaborate with each client to design an individualized plan that fits the patient's lifestyle and pet caregiver's needs.

2 Actions



Choose antiparasitic drugs judiciously and monitor their efficacy after a presumptive or confirmatory diagnosis, and consider their spectrum of activity, ease of use, and the principles of ADS.



Share parasite maps, forecasting tools, and other visual tools with clients, set up automated reminders, and provide take-home calendars or cards to strengthen year-round parasite prevention compliance.

1 Thing to Never Forget



Recognizing and treating emerging parasitic infections or infestations in dogs and cats include selecting proper confirmatory diagnostic tests, notifying officials of reportable parasites and diseases, effectively treating and monitoring affected animals, and informing clients about zoonotic risks and how they can mitigate them.