

Routine Parasite Control Procedures for Cats in CP Care



These procedures are written as guidance for cats in the care of Cats Protection. More frequent treatment for fleas and worms may be required if a cat or kitten has a heavy burden of fleas or worms on entering Cats Protection's care. The veterinary surgeon's advice must be sought prior to treatment. The products that we use for parasite treatment are prescription only medications (POM-V). This means that before the first treatment is given, the cat must have a clinical assessment with a veterinary surgeon, to comply with legislation set out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). The only exception to this is cats entering care with extremely heavy flea burden, these may be treated with a Capstar tablet (a non-prescription medication) ahead of clinical assessment with a veterinary surgeon. If a cat moves under the care of a different vet eg from branch to AC care, the cat must be clinically assessed by the new vet before any flea and worm treatment is given. As per Cats Protection guidelines, all cats should have a clinical assessment with a vet every three months. Do not treat any cats on any other medication (or given any other medication within the last 2 weeks) without seeking veterinary advice first.

- Always wear gloves when handling and administering medication and wash hands straight afterwards.
- Ensure accurate bodyweight of the cat is obtained before dosing with flea or worm treatment and seek advice before treating underweight (less than body condition score of 2/5) or unwell cats or those on other medication.
- See the drug datasheets for further information.
- Apply all topical treatments to the back of the cat's neck where it can't lick itself
- Do not apply topical treatments to a wet cat, wait until it is dry and do not bath the cat for 48 hours after any topical treatment.
- Ensure your veterinary surgeon is aware of any flea or worming treatment that has been used on the cat that you are aware of in the last two weeks (for example before coming in to care)

This parasite control guidance, produced for cats in CP care, does not translate to owned cats where husbandry and parasite exposure may differ significantly. Instead, owners should be directed to seek specific veterinary advice for parasite control guidance for their own pet.

Adult cats and kittens over 6 weeks of age (including pregnant and lactating queens)

Flea and Round worm treatment

Stronghold Spot-On Solution for Cats:

Bodyweight of cat	Treatment
<2.5kg	Stronghold Spot-On Solution 15mg for Cats <2.5 kg
2.6kg - 7.5kg	Stronghold Spot-On Solution 45mg for Cats 2.6 – 7.5 kg

N.B for any cat over 7.5kg a larger version of Stronghold spot on is available, but it is unlikely to be needed regularly so it is not recommended to keep in stock.

When?

- After the first vet check
- At adoption (if longer than 4 weeks since last dose)
- Monthly whilst in CP care
- Stronghold can also be used for the treatment of Ear mites under the direction of your vet

If a cat comes into care with a very heavy flea burden, and cannot be seen immediately by a vet, a single dose of Capstar 11.4mg Tablets for Cats and Dogs can be given. As this product is available as a general sales item (AVM-GSL) it does not require veterinary assessment ahead of treatment. One Capstar tablet can be given to a cat between 1 and 11kg. Do not give to kittens less than 4 weeks old or less than 1 kg in weight.

Tapeworm treatment

Milpro Film-coated Tablets for Kittens and Cats:

Bodyweight of cat	Treatment
0.5-1kg	Milpro 4mg/10mg for small cats and kittens – half a tablet (dark brown)
>1kg-2kg	Milpro 4mg/10mg for small cats and kittens – 1 tablet (dark brown)
2-4kg	Milpro 16mg/40mg for cats, half a tablet (red-pink)
>4-8kg	Milpro 16mg/40mg for cats, one tablet (red-pink)

>8-12kg	Milpro 16mg/40mg for cats, one and a half a tablet (red-pink)
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Unlike other medications, half tablets of Milpro can be stored in the original packaging until needed, which helps reduce wastage.

For cats that are difficult to treat with a tablet, Droncit spot on 20mg solution is available that can be used but it is considerably more expensive. 48 hours should be left between Stronghold and Droncit application. The spot on solutions should be applied in slightly different areas and this be noted in the records, so that if a skin reaction were to occur it is clear which product caused it.

Droncit spot on 20mg solution:

Bodyweight of cat	Treatment
1 - 2.5kg	1 tube of Droncit spot on 20mg solution applied topically
>2.5 – 5kg	2 tubes of Droncit spot on 20mg solution applied topically
>5kg	3 tubes of Droncit spot on 20mg solution applied topically

Kitten under 6 weeks of age

Flea and worming treatment 0-6 weeks of age

Flea treatment 0-6 weeks of age:

Flea treatment is not routinely required for kittens until they are 6-7 weeks of age, if the queen was adequately treated prior to birth and is housed in a flea free environment. If treatment is needed, or if the previous history of flea treatment is unknown, use Frontline spray applied to kittens over 2 days of age topically (number of pumps depends on bottle size, coat length and bodyweight). Kittens do not need to be clinically assessed ahead of the use of Frontline spray as it is not prescription only. (NFA-VPS)

Worm treatment 0-4 weeks of age:

No treatment

Worm treatment 4-6 weeks of age:

Panacur Small Animal 10% Oral Suspension or Panacur 18.75% Oral Paste given by mouth. Give kitten dose once daily for 3 days - see Panacur kitten dose table. Kittens do not have to have a clinical assessment before using Panacur as it is not a prescription only medication.

Panacur dose chart for kittens

Bodyweight of kitten	Dose of Panacur Small Animal 10% Oral Suspension to be given by mouth daily for 3 days (0.5ml per kg bodyweight)	Dose of Panacur 18.75% Oral Paste to be given by mouth daily for 3 days (1 notch/syringe graduation per kg bodyweight)
0.25kg	0.13ml	1 notch
0.5kg	0.25ml	1 notch
0.75kg	0.38ml	1 notch
1.0kg	0.5ml	1 notch
1.25kg	0.63ml	2 notches
1.5kg	0.75ml	2 notches
1.75kg	0.88ml	2 notches
2.0kg	1.0ml	2 notches

See datasheet for full instruction.

Feral Cats

Where funds allow, flea and worm treatment can be given to feral cats under general anaesthesia as part of a Trap Neuter Return programme if deemed necessary by your vet.

Stronghold Spot-On Solution for Cats can be used to treat for fleas and round worms. If the vet has clinical concerns about tick or tapeworm infestation they may consider using another product alongside Stronghold.

Flea control in the environment

Areas used to house or transport cats will need to be treated for fleas periodically, to control environmental sources of flea infection. Environmental sprays may be needed every 6 months or more frequently, depending on facilities and conditions. Seek veterinary advice on an appropriate product and guidance on its application. Our commonly ordered products list is available for guidance.