



Routine Parasite Procedures

Guidance for cats in Cats Protection care



These procedures are written as guidance for cats in the care of Cats Protection. Decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis under the directions of a veterinary surgeon. 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). An exception to this is cats entering care with extremely heavy flea burden, these may be treated with a Capstar tablet (AVM-GSL, a non-prescription medication) ahead of clinical assessment with a veterinary surgeon. If a cat moves under the care of a different vet, for example from branch to centre care, the cat must be clinically assessed by the new vet before any flea and worm treatment is given. Due to new guidance from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, if further parasite treatment may need to be prescribed, this must be detailed in the clinical notes by the vet at the time of the examination, or the cat will need a repeat examination. As per Cats Protection guidelines, all cats should have a clinical assessment with a vet every three months.

- Always wear gloves when handling and administering medication and wash hands straight afterwards
- See the drug datasheets for further information
- Apply all topical treatments to the back of the cat's neck where they can't lick themselves
- Do not apply topical treatments to a wet cat, wait until they are 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 into care)

Adult cats and kittens over six weeks old (including pregnant and lactating cats)

Flea and roundworm treatment

Stronghold Spot-on Solution for Cats

Body weight of cat	Treatment
Less than 2.5kg	Stronghold Spot-on Solution 15mg for cats less than 2.5kg
2.6kg to 7.5kg	Stronghold Spot-on Solution 45mg for cats 2.6kg to 7.5kg

Note: 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?

- For most cats in care only one flea/roundworm treatment will be required, given after the first vet check
- For cats with a heavy burden of fleas, the vet may elect to prescribe a second treatment to be applied a month later
- For cats with skin disease or a flea allergy, a repeat treatment should be given at monthly intervals while in Cats Protection care

- Monthly in kittens until six months old
(then no further treatments necessary, unless concerns while in care)
- Stronghold can also be used for the treatment of ear mites under the direction of your vet
- For multi-pen sites within catteries, the frequency of flea and worm treatment must comply with local authority guidelines

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 weighing between 1kg and 11kg. Do not give to kittens less than four weeks old or less than 1kg in weight.

Tapeworm treatment

Milpro Film-coated Tablets for kittens and cats

Body weight of cat	Treatment
0.5kg to 1kg	Milpro 4mg/10mg for small cats and kittens: half a tablet (dark brown)
1kg to 2kg	Milpro 4mg/10mg for small cats and kittens: one tablet (dark brown)
2kg to 4kg	Milpro 16mg/40mg for cats: half a tablet (red-pink)
4kg to 8kg	Milpro 16mg/40mg for cats: one tablet (red-pink)
8kg to 12kg	Milpro 16mg/40mg for cats: one and a half tablets (red-pink)

Unlike other medications, half tablets of Milpro can be stored in the original packaging until needed, which helps reduce wastage.

When?

- For most cats in care only one tapeworm treatment will be required, given after the first vet check
- Repeat only if advised by your vet
- For multi-pen sites within catteries, the frequency of flea and worm treatment must comply with local authority guidelines

For cats that are difficult to treat with a tablet, Droncit spot-on 20mg solution is available and can be used but it is considerably more expensive. We recommend that 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:

Body weight of cat	Treatment
1kg to 2.5kg	One tube of Droncit Spot-on 20mg Solution applied topically
2.5kg to 5kg	Two tubes of Droncit Spot-on 20mg Solution applied topically
More than 5kg	Three tubes of Droncit Spot-on 20mg Solution applied topically

Kittens under six weeks old

Flea treatment for kittens under six weeks old:

Flea treatment is not routinely required for kittens until they are eight weeks old, if the mother 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 two days old 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 for kittens under four weeks old:

No treatment

Worm treatment for kittens four to six weeks old:

Panacur Small Animal 10% Oral Suspension or Panacur 18.75% Oral Paste given by mouth. Give kitten dose once daily for three days, see Panacur dose chart of kittens on next page. 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

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

See datasheet for full instruction.

Feral cats

Feral cats should be given a single treatment for fleas and roundworms under general anaesthetic as part of a trap, neuter and return programme. A one-off treatment in a feral cat will have a limited effect, but there may be some clinical benefit to the cat during the immediate post-operative period.

If there is a clinical concern of tapeworm infestation, such as visual evidence of tapeworm segments, an additional product may be considered alongside Stronghold. If another spot-on is applied at the same time as Stronghold, use an alternative site on the back of the neck so the products don't mix. Spot-on worm treatments for cats include Droncit spot-on and Profender. Droncit is a larger volume, however where possible would be the preferred product as it only includes tapeworm treatment.

Although industry standard is to leave time between applications of different products, the need to treat feral cats topically while under anaesthetic will require assessment on a risk-benefit basis.

Ticks can be removed with a tick hook.

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 12 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 list is available for guidance.



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