

A black cat with yellow eyes is looking up at a hand reaching towards it. The background is a soft-focus blue and white.

Guidance for routine parasite control



Veterinary assessment and care

- The following information is guidance for cats in the care of Cats Protection. Decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis under the direction of a veterinary surgeon
- The products that we most often recommend 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
- If a cat enters care with a heavy flea burden and an immediate vet appointment cannot be arranged, they may be treated with a Capstar tablet, or for young kittens, Frontline spray, before a clinical assessment with a veterinary surgeon. Panacur is available for worming young kittens. These medications don't require a prescription or veterinary assessment prior to use
- If a cat moves under the care of a different vet, the cat must be clinically assessed by the new vet before any flea and worm treatment is given. Due to 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
- Ensure your vet is aware of any flea or worming treatment that has been given to the cat that you are aware of in the last two weeks (for example before coming into care)
- All cats should have a clinical assessment with a vet every three months

Please note:

This guidance is not intended to guide treatment for owned cats where their lifestyle and parasite exposure may differ significantly. Instead, owners should be directed to seek specific veterinary advice for parasite control guidance for their own pet.

For multi-pen sites within catteries, the frequency of flea and worm treatment must comply with local authority guidelines.

Preferred products

We have secured significant discounts on our preferred products, while also assessing their safety and suitability for cats in care. Using our preferred products, when possible, helps us make savings that allow us to help more cats. The products are as follows:

Stronghold spot-on solution for cats

- Can be used in kittens from six weeks old
- Provides treatment against fleas, roundworms, hookworms, lice and mites

Milpro film-coated tablets for cats and kittens

- Can be given to kittens from six weeks of age, provided they weigh over 0.5kg
- Effective against internal worms such as roundworms and tapeworms

Administering flea and worm treatment

- Always ensure treatments are given based on an up-to-date and accurate weight
- Always wear gloves when handling and administering medication and wash hands straight afterwards
- 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 bathe the cat for 48 hours after any topical treatment
- See the drug datasheets for further information


Recommendations based on age

Kittens under six weeks old

Flea treatment

- Flea treatment is not routinely required for kittens until they are eight weeks old. However, young kittens are most vulnerable to the effects of fleas, so kittens and queens should be monitored closely for any signs of fleas
- All kittens and the queen should be checked with a flea comb upon entering care, and then at least weekly, for evidence of fleas or flea dirt
- If treatment is needed, Frontline spray can be used. This can be applied to kittens over two days old topically. The number of pumps depends on the bottle size and bodyweight of the kitten. Instructions on the package insert should be followed carefully. Ensure kittens are kept warm after treatment
- Kittens do not need to be clinically assessed ahead of the use of Frontline spray as it is not a prescription-only medication

Worm treatment

- Worm treatment is generally not required in kittens under four weeks old unless there is clinical suspicion of worms
 - For kittens over four weeks old, Panacur Small Animal 10% Oral Suspension or Panacur 18.75% Oral Paste can be given by mouth. Give the kitten dose once daily for three days, see the Panacur kitten dosing chart below. Kittens do not need a vet assessment before using Panacur as it is not a prescription-only medication
 - The three-day course can be repeated after two weeks if necessary
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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
0.25kg	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
2kg	1.0ml	Two notches

See datasheet for full instructions.

Kittens from six weeks old to six months old

Flea and roundworm treatment:

Stronghold Spot-on Solution for Cats can be given to kittens over six weeks old, using the correct pipette size based on weight. This must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon following a clinical exam.

Please see below for dosing information.

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

When to treat

- At the kitten's first veterinary check
- Monthly until the kitten is 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

Capstar

If a kitten 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. This product does not require veterinary assessment prior to treatment. One Capstar tablet can be given to a cat weighing between 1kg and 11kg. Capstar cannot be used in kittens less than four weeks old or less than 1kg in weight.

Tapeworm treatment

Milpro tablets for small cats and kittens can be given to kittens providing they are over six weeks old and weigh over 0.5kg. This must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon following a clinical exam.

Please see below for dosing information.

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)

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

When to treat

- For most cats in care only one tapeworm treatment will be required, given after the first vet check
- If a kitten has received a course of Panacur when under six weeks old, Milpro can be given as a repeat worm treatment when the kitten is eight weeks old
- Repeat Milpro treatment only if advised by your vet

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

Flea and roundworm treatment

Stronghold Spot-on Solution for Cats must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon following a clinical exam. Please see below for dosing information.

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 to treat

- 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
- Stronghold can also be used for the treatment of ear mites under the direction of your vet

Capstar

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. This product does not require veterinary assessment prior to treatment. One Capstar tablet can be given to a cat weighing between 1kg and 11kg.

Tapeworm treatment

Milpro tablets for cats can be used in kittens and cats who weigh over 2kg. If under 2kg, please refer to the dose chart for 'Milpro for small cats and kittens' in the section above on younger kittens. Milpro must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon following a clinical exam.

Please see below for dosing information.

Body weight of cat	Treatment
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.

When to treat

- 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

Additional guidance

For cats that are difficult to treat with a worming tablet, **Droncit spot-on solution** is available.

The safety of Droncit spot-on in pregnancy and lactation is not known in cats. Laboratory studies have shown harmful effects on foetuses when rabbits and rats were exposed to one of the ingredients in the spot-on. Droncit spot-on should therefore not be given to pregnant or lactating cats.

Women who are pregnant, or may be pregnant, should not administer the product. Other women of childbearing age should wear gloves. This only applies when the product is wet. Once dry, the cat can be handled as normal.

Droncit does not require a veterinary assessment prior to use and can be used for kittens who weigh over 1kg, but it is considerably more expensive than our preferred products.

Droncit spot-on solution treats tapeworms only. Flea and roundworm treatment will still be required when treating cats in care for parasites after their first veterinary check.

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 should be noted in the records, so that if a skin reaction were to occur it is clear which product caused it.

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

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 preferred products list is available for guidance.

Feral cats

Feral cats should be given a single treatment for fleas and roundworms under general anaesthetic as part of a trap, neuter, vaccinate and return program. 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.



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