

Tapeworms

Flanary Veterinary Clinic (270) 898-9738 www.flanaryvet.com

What are tapeworms?? Tapeworms are segmented worms that live in the small intestines of dogs and cats. Left untreated they can cause weight loss, malnourishment, poor appearance, and diarrhea.

How did my pet get tapeworms?? There are two ways in which dogs and cats get tapeworms: **1.** by ingesting wild animals such as mice or rabbits and raw meat and **2.** by ingesting fleas that are on the pet.

What are the signs of tapeworms?? The small rice-like segments of the tapeworm are usually noticed in the stool or in the hair around the anus. The dried segments can also be found in the pet's environment and bedding.

How are tapeworms treated?? Dewormers designed to treat tapeworms are highly effective. However be aware that re-infection can easily occur if preventative measures are not taken. They can actually be re-infected as early as 2 weeks after deworming. Treating all pets for fleas and discourage them from eating their prey are ways to help prevent them from becoming re-infected.

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