



## **TAPEWORMS**

### **MEDICAL DISCLOSURE FOR TAPEWORMS**

This pet has been diagnosed with tapeworms. Tapeworms are a gastrointestinal parasite most commonly spread through fleas and occasionally other animals such as rodents or rabbits. Tapeworms can cause the pet to have diarrhea and/or worm segments in the stool. When the pet defecates, it should be cleaned up immediately to avoid ingestion by other animals that may continue to spread the infection. Tapeworms can be transmitted to humans, but the risk of infestation is very low - you'd have to swallow an infected flea or, in the case of some species of parasites, via the accidental ingestion of feces that is carrying parasitic eggs. Children are most prone to this, since they're more likely to be outside playing in grass, parks, and other areas where dog waste might be left. Make sure to use good hygiene and wash your hands after handling the stool of an infected animal. Other dogs and cats can become infected with it after coming into contact with an infected animal's feces, so it is recommended to isolate this pet from other animals in the household until the tapeworm infection is gone. The pet has been given an oral medication to treat the tapeworm infection, but should have a fecal sample checked after treatment to ensure the infection has resolved. All follow-up care will need to be done at the owner's veterinarian and at the owner's expense.