

## **CONTROL AGAINST PARASITES AND WORMS**

No matter how careful you are, your pet may pick up ticks, fleas and lice. For effective control of such parasites, you should consult your veterinarian. Your veterinarian would be the best person to advise you on the type of insecticides to use.

### **FLEAS**

Dog and cats are very commonly infested by fleas which tend to be found where the hair is longest. They move around, and may not be seen as readily as the flea dirt which shows up as dark specks in the fur, but fleas will make the dog scratch furiously.

Apart from causing the animals intense irritation, fleas act as an intermediate host of tapeworms and should be eliminated quickly.

Fleas should be treated with one of the proprietary preparations available from veterinarians and used according to instructions.

Fleas breed in the dog's bedding. To eliminate the succeeding generations, it is essential to kill off their eggs by burning or washing the bedding, and disinfecting any other likely breeding place. This is usually considered to be even more important than treating the animal itself.

### **LICE**

Unlike fleas, lice spend their entire life-cycle on the animals' body. They multiply very quickly, and a severe infestation causes the dog extreme discomfort, and possibly anaemia. Puppies, in particular, are seriously weakened by them.

Lice cling to the skin, or burrow into it, and are not easily seen, but their white eggs, or nits, can be found in the fur. A dog or cat thought to have lice should be taken for veterinary examination.

### **TICKS**

Ticks are another blood-sucking parasite that may be found on a dog. Ticks spend a few days feeding on the dog, gradually becoming distended. They drop off when fully engorged. It is a mistake simply to pull off a tick with tweezers.

### **MANGE MITES**

Demodectic mange may show mild symptoms of inflamed skin and hairless lesions or, more seriously, pustules and severe irritation. Prompt veterinary treatment is essential, as postponement may lead to permanent baldness.

Sarcoptic mange is contagious to dogs and to man. it causes intense irritation and scabs on the skin. Urgent veterinary treatment is needed, and isolation.

## **EAR MITES**

Ear mites are responsible for ear mange, which causes great suffering and may lead to permanent ear damage. The dog shakes its head and carries it at a different angle. There may be a discharge and loss of balance. Most ear problems respond well to veterinary care.

## **WORMS**

Many species of worm can infest a dog. Some are transmissible to man, which is one reason why droppings should be removed, and why children should wash after playing with dogs.

Worms cause the dog discomfort, which is manifested by its changed behaviour and deteriorating condition. Sometimes a dog may vomit worms, or segments of tapeworm will be found in the droppings.

It is essential that prompt veterinary attention and treatment is obtained.

## **RINGWORM**

Ringworm is not due to a worm at all, nor even a parasite: it is a fungus infection that attacks the hair follicles and spreads quickly. It can also spread to people, and children should not touch an infected dog.

At first ringworm may be mistaken for mange, but eventually the round, encrusted lesions develop, with the broken hairs that characterize this condition.

Veterinary treatment is essential, and urgent.