

Gatorland Animal Services SOPs

Parasite Control for Cats

Effective Date: 9/15/2021

Revised:

Responsible Staff:

- Vet techs
- Kennel staff

Purpose: This SOP provides vet techs and kennel staff with a step-by-step procedure for empirical treatment of cats and kittens for intestinal and external parasites starting at intake and during their shelter stay and documenting the treatments in each animal's medical record. The parasite control SOP is based on the recommendations for cats in the ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters and the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) Guidelines.

Definitions

- Roundworm = common intestinal parasite in shelter cats that can also infect people
- Hookworm = common intestinal parasite in shelter cats that can also infect people
- Coccidia = common intestinal parasite in kittens that can cause diarrhea and unthriftiness
- Fleas = common external parasite in shelter cats that can also transmit different infections to people
- Pyrantel pamoate = oral dewormer for roundworms and hookworms
- Ponazuril = oral dewormer for coccidia
- Revolution Plus = topical treatment for fleas, ticks, roundworms, hookworms, heartworm
- Capstar (nitenpyram) = oral treatment for fleas

Supplies Needed

- Disposable exam gloves
- Pyrantel pamoate dewormer (50 mg/mL)
- Ponazuril dewormer (100 mg/mL)
- Revolution Plus
- Capstar 11.4 mg tablets
- 1cc, 3cc, and 10cc syringes for oral dosing

Procedures

1. Wear clean exam gloves.
2. Open the animal's medical record in Chameleon.
3. Ensure that the animal's ID neckband and description match the medical record.
4. Administer pyrantel pamoate to all cats at least 2 weeks old
 - a. Dose = 1 mL per 10 lb body weight given by mouth
 - b. Initial treatment at intake
 - c. Use a separate dosing syringe for each animal
 - d. Record the treatment and amount given in the medical record
 - e. Repeat every 2 weeks in kittens during their shelter stay
 - f. Repeat once at 2 weeks after intake for adult cats ≥ 6 months old
5. Administer ponazuril to kittens < 6 months old

- a. Dose = 0.4 mL per lb body weight given by mouth
 - b. Start treatment at intake
 - c. Use a separate dosing syringe for each kitten
 - d. Record the treatment and amount given in the medical record
 - e. Repeat daily for a total of 3 days
6. Administer Revolution Plus to all cats at least 8 weeks old
- a. Initial treatment at intake
 - b. Select the correct dose based on body weight according to the package label
 - c. Apply topically onto the skin on the back (must penetrate through the haircoat to the skin)
 - d. Record the treatment and amount given in the medical record
 - e. Repeat monthly
8. Administer Capstar to kittens from 4 weeks to 8 weeks old
- a. Kills adult fleas in kittens that are too young for Revolution Plus
 - b. Must weigh at least 2 lb
 - c. Administer at intake
 - d. Give one 11.4 mg tablet by mouth
 - e. Record the treatment and amount given in the medical record
 - f. Monitor for recurrence of fleas and re-treat as necessary (safe to administer daily if necessary)