Gatorland Animal Services SOPs

Parasite Control for Dogs

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 dogs and puppies 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 shelter dogs 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 dogs that can also infect people
- Hookworm = common intestinal parasite in shelter dogs that can also infect people
- Coccidia = common intestinal parasite in puppies that can cause diarrhea and unthriftiness
- Fleas = common external parasite in shelter dogs that can also transmit different infections to people
- Ticks = common external parasite in shelter dogs that can also transmit different infections to people
- Heartworm = parasitic infection of the heart acquired from mosquito bites
- Pyrantel pamoate = oral dewormer for roundworms and hookworms
- Ponazuril = oral dewormer for coccidia
- Frontline Plus = topical treatment for fleas, ticks, roundworms, hookworms
- Heartgard Plus = oral prevention for heartworms
- Capstar (nitenpyram) = oral treatment for fleas

Supplies Needed

- Disposable exam gloves
- Pyrantel pamoate dewormer (50 mg/mL)
- Ponazuril dewormer (100 mg/mL)
- Frontline Plus
- Heartgard 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 dogs 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 dog and puppy

d. Record the treatment and amount given in the medical record
e. Repeat every 2 weeks in puppies during their shelter stay
f. Repeat once at 2 weeks after intake for adult dogs ≥6 months old

5. Administer ponazuril to puppies <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 puppy
   d. Record the treatment and amount given in the medical record
   e. Repeat daily for a total of 3 days
6. Administer Frontline Plus to all dogs at least 8 weeks old
   a. Initial treatment at intake
   b. Select the correct dose based on body weight: Must weigh at least 4lb
   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
7. Administer Heartgard Plus to all dogs at least 8 weeks old
   a. Initial treatment at intake
   b. Select the correct dose based on body weight
   c. Give by mouth
   d. Record the treatment and amount given in the medical record
   e. Repeat monthly
   f. Safe to give to dogs that test positive for heartworm infection
8. Administer Capstar to puppies from 4 weeks to 8 weeks old
   a. Kills adult fleas in puppies that are too young or small for Frontline Plus
   b. Must weigh at least 2lb
   c. Administer at intake
   d. Give one 11.4 mg tablet by mouth (covers puppies weighing 2 to 25 lb)
   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)