

Wagg & Purr[®]

Praziquantel Tablets



Active Constituents

Each tablet contains Praziquantel 50 mg

Actions

For the control of tapeworms in dogs and cats including the hydatid tapeworm in dogs.

Indications

Wagg & Purr[®] Tapeworm Tablet for Dogs and Cats is recommended for the control of tapeworms in dogs and cats including:

Dogs

- Common flea tapeworm (*Dipylidium caninum*)
- Hydatid tapeworm (*Echinococcus granulosus*)
- Sheep measles tapeworm (*Taenia ovis*)
- False hydatid tapeworm (*Taenia hydatigena*)
- Rabbit tapeworm (*Taenia pisiformis*)
- Zipper tapeworm (*Spirometra erinacei*)

Cats

- Common flea tapeworm (*Dipylidium caninum*)
- Cat tapeworm (*Taenia taeniaeformis*)
- Zipper tapeworm (*Spirometra erinacei*)

Resistance may develop to any chemical. If worm problems persist, consult a veterinarian.

Dosage & Administration

Wagg & Purr[®] Tapeworm Tablet for Dogs and Cats should be given as a single dose by mouth. Fasting prior to dosing is NOT necessary. Weigh animals before treatment.

Dosage for tapeworms (except *Spirometra erinacei*): 5 mg/kg

Dogs: 1 tablet per 10 kg bodyweight.

Cats: ½ tablet per 5 kg bodyweight

Dosage for *Spirometra erinacei*: 20 mg/kg

Dogs and Cats: 1 tablet per 2.5 kg bodyweight.

Hydatid tapeworm: Dogs should not be fed, or allowed to feed on, offal from any species. Dogs in hydatid areas should be treated every 6 weeks. It is important to ensure that the dog does not eat offal in order to break the life cycle of the Hydatid Tapeworm. Do not allow access to the carcass of any dead animals.

Other tapeworms: Treat every 3 months.

Note:

If the animal is still passing segments after a routine treatment of 5 mg/kg dose rate, it is likely to harbour *Spirometra erinacei* which come from a different family of tapeworms. Removal for such worms requires four times the normal dose of Wagg & Purr® Tapeworm Tablet for Dogs and Cats.

General Directions

Mode of Action

After dosing, Wagg & Purr® Tapeworm Tablet for Dogs and Cats is rapidly absorbed into the duodenum and circulates in the blood. Part of the dose is excreted back into the gut by the intestines thus bringing the drug into intimate contact with the tapeworm scolex which is attached to the gut lining. Dead worms are usually digested before being passed and will not be observed in the faeces.

Tapeworms In Dogs and Cats

In Australia there are seven main species of tapeworms infesting dogs and cats. Because of their lifecycle requirements, five of these are found mainly in rural or fringe-urban areas.

Echinococcus granulosus - The hydatid tapeworm in dogs is of great public health importance because infected dogs may infect man with hydatid cysts. It is found mainly in country areas because it requires sheep to complete its life cycle. Eggs passed by the adult worm in dogs are consumed by sheep grazing infected pasture. The eggs then hatch to form hydatid cysts in the liver and lungs of the sheep. The lifecycle is completed by a dog eating the cyst-infested liver and lungs. Adult hydatid tapeworms in the dog are very small (about 2 mm) but can be very numerous. Because they infect humans with hydatid cysts, it is important to keep dogs free of them and also wash your hands after handling a dog.

Dipylidium caninum - The common flea tapeworm is frequently seen in dogs and cats in all areas. It uses the flea as a necessary intermediate host in its life cycle. Eggs passed by the adult worm living in the dog or cat are consumed by larval flesh in the animal's environment. Inside the flea larva, the tapeworm egg develops to a cyst and stays with the flea while it changes into its familiar adult form. The dog or cat infects itself with the tapeworm when it swallows a flea containing a tapeworm cyst.

Sheep measles (*Taenia ovis*), false hydatid (*Taenia hydatigena*), rabbit tapeworm (*Taenia pisiformis*) - These are large tapeworms of dogs which use sheep (*Taenia ovis*, *Taenia hydatigena*) or rabbits (*Taenia pisiformis*) as their intermediate hosts. The life cycle is similar to hydatid tapeworm, but they are not dangerous to humans. The first two worms however do cause economic loss in the sheep meat industry.

Cat tapeworm (*Taenia taeniaeformis*) - This is a large tapeworm of cats which uses rodents as its intermediate host. The life cycle is similar to *Taenia* spp. in dogs.

Spirometra erinacei - The zipper tapeworm is called as such because it has a darker stripe running down its centre, giving it the appearance of a zipper. It has a complicated lifecycle involving two separate intermediate hosts which are usually associated with bodies of fresh water such as dams. It is therefore usually confined to rural and fringe urban areas where dogs and cats can hunt amphibians such as frogs.

Wagg & Purr® Tapeworm Tablet for Dogs and Cats is effective in removing all the tapeworm parasite from dogs and cats although with *Spirometra* the dose must be quadrupled. Treatment with Wagg & Purr® Tapeworm Tablet for Dogs and Cats only removes the current tapeworm burden and cannot prevent the animal becoming reinfested with new tapeworms. Animals can only become reinfested by eating an intermediate host. It is possible to reduce the rate of reinfestation by controlling those intermediate hosts. For example:

Sheep - Rural dogs should not be fed offal from home-killed sheep and it is preferable to feed dry or canned proprietary dog foods. Dogs should be prevented from straying and scavenging sheep carcasses in the paddock.

Rabbits - Rabbit control will help reduce the incidence of *Taenia pisiformis* and is important in rural areas for other management reasons as well.

Rodents - Rodent control will help to reduce the incidence of *Taenia taeniaeformis* in cats. Fleas - Should be controlled with a total flea control program to reduce the risk of reinfection with *Dipylidium caninum*.

Other - Where possible, eliminate unnecessary ponds etc. to destroy the breeding grounds for the intermediate hosts of *Spirometra erinacei*.

Treatment Recommendations

Dogs should be treated for tapeworms every six weeks in hydatid-prone areas. This ensures that even if a dog becomes infected between treatments, the worms will be killed before they can produce eggs which are infective for humans.

In non-hydatid areas it is recommended that dogs and cats be routinely treated for tapeworms every three months. It is possible that owners may see tapeworm segments being passed before the next treatment is due, however, and in these cases the animal should be treated when segments are seen. For example, with flea tapeworm it is quite possible for a dog or cat which reinfests itself with the tapeworm the day after Wagg & Purr® Tapeworm Tablet for Dogs and Cats treatment to be passing segments two to three weeks after treatment. You can retreat in these cases, but a flea control program will help prevent this occurring.

The treatment recommendation therefore is in hydatid areas treat dogs every six weeks. In non-hydatid areas treat dogs and cats routinely every three months, or more frequently if tapeworm segments appear in the animal's faeces.

Safety

Wagg & Purr® Tapeworm Tablet for Dogs and Cats can be given safely to old animals, young pups and kittens, pregnant bitches and queens, working dogs and greyhounds and may be combined with other treatments such as roundworm or flea treatments. Vomiting has been observed only at doses about 40 times greater than the normal dose.

NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE, OR IN ANY MANNER, CONTRARY TO THIS LABEL UNLESS AUTHORISED UNDER APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION

Safety Data Sheet

For Safety Data Sheet see www.avet.health

First Aid

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or phone the Poisons Information Centre. Phone Australia 13 11 26.

Presentation

Bottle of 50 tablets

Disposal

Dispose of packaging by wrapping in paper and placing in garbage.

Storage

Store below 30 °C (room temperature). Protect from light. Return any divided tablet to the blister [or container] and use within 30 days.

Poisons schedule

S5

Registration Number

APVMA Approval Number: 93245

Wagg&Purr® is a registered trademark of AVet Health Ltd.