

A List of Domestic Cat Parasites
(Primary source: Cornell Book of Cats 2nd ed)

V=Vet. Clin. Parasitology 5th ed.(1978)
C=Cornell Book of Cats 2nd ed. (1997)
K=Merck Vet. Manual 8th ed. (1998)

M=Web:UofMissouriCollegeofVetMed D=Web: CDC Image Library
P=Web:UofPennSchoolofVetMed W=Web: unspecified
(FF= Fecal Flotation EAS=Ethyl Acetate Sedimentation)

Name	Freq.	Aliases	Often found in	Type	Described in	Photo	Find
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	Comm.	= <i>G. intestinalis, felis</i> ; (more recently <i>G. duodenalis</i> ?)	small intestine	Flagellate protozoa	CVPK, etc.	WPDL	motile teardrop-shaped trophozoites with 2 nuclei (10-20x7-10 µm cell) by direct smear or EAS, or cysts (oval shape: 9-15x7-10 µm) in feces by ZnSO ₄ FF (Sp.G=1.18), EAS or fecal antigen test. (NaCl, Sucrose, NaNO ₃ FF greatly distorts cysts, not suitable.) Iodine stain of cysts aids identification. Stool often fatty due to malabsorption, usually not watery. Cyst shedding inconsistent, often requiring multiple samples over several days. Trophozoite: Has 2 nuclei with a large, central karyosome, and 8 flagella; the ventral side modified as a sucking disk. Often found in the clumps of mucus and thus can be difficult to find. Cyst: The fibrils running the length of the cyst, known as axonemes, diagnostic. Also, a crescent-shaped median body is detectable in many cysts. 4 nuclei (all 4 not always detectable) located at one end of the cyst. The nuclei has no peripheral chromatin, and the central chromatin (karyosome) usually have a reddish tint. Via drinking contaminated water, feces.
<i>Pentatrichomonas felis</i>		(<i>P. hominis</i> in people similar)	large intestine	Flagellate protozoa	C	----	flagellated trophozoites in feces by direct smear. (No cyst stage in life cycle.) This trichomonad is a smaller, highly motile organism with an anterior cytostome and 3 to 5 flagella.
<i>Trichomonas</i> spp.			GI tract	Flagellate protozoa	C	W	flagellated trophozoites in feces by direct smear. (No cyst stage in life cycle.)
<i>Cryptosporidium felis</i>	Rare	(<i>C. parvum</i> infects dogs, humans; <i>C. felis</i> infects cats, humans; <i>Cryptosporidium</i> rare in cats)	small intestine	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> protozoa	CPK	PD	oocysts in feces (dia. 4-6 µm) by ZnSO ₄ , Sucrose FF or by acid-fast stain of direct smear (<i>C. parvum</i> red, similar yeasts blue or green); easy to overlook. Oocysts immediately infective in feces (zoonotic significance), not shed continuously. Usually self-limiting. Wide host range. Via direct ingestion of oocyst.
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	Fairly Comm.		small intestine, tissues	Coccidia (<i>Toxoplasma</i>) protozoa	CVPK, etc.	VWPL	oocysts in feces (dia. 10-12 µm; round to slightly oval) by FF. Appears almost identical to <i>H. hammondi</i> . Oocysts shed only in the first 2-3 weeks of first-time infection when cat usually asymptomatic. Antigen test shows exposure. Oocysts infective in 24 hours -- sporulates as in <i>Isospora</i> oocysts (but much smaller). Via ingestion of oocysts or various intermediate hosts.
<i>Hammondia hammondi</i>	Uncommon	(Outdated classification: <i>Isospora bigemina</i> "small form", etc.)	small intestine	Coccidia protozoa	PVK	V	oocyst in feces (10x11 µm) by FF. Appears almost identical to <i>T. gondii</i> . Suggested treatment same as for <i>T. gondii</i> (Clindamycin) [P] Via eating rodent.
<i>Isospora felis</i>	Comm.	(<i>I. canis</i> in dogs similar)	small intestine	Coccidia protozoa	CVPKL, etc.	VWPL	oval-shaped oocysts (~42x30 µm) in feces by FF. Clinical cases uncommon except in kittens/immunocompromised cats. Via direct ingestion of oocysts or eating mouse.
<i>Isospora rivolta</i>	Comm.	(<i>I. ohioensis</i> in dogs similar in size)	small intestine	Coccidia protozoa	CVPKL, etc.	VWPL	more or less round oocysts (25x20 µm) in feces by FF. (A little smaller than <i>I. felis</i> .) Clinical cases uncommon except in kittens/immunocompromised cats. Via direct ingestion of oocysts or eating mouse.
<i>Sarcocystis</i> spp.	Uncommon	<i>S. bovifelis, tenella, porcifelis, hirsuta, gigantea, medusifformis, moulei</i> are in cats	Lamina propria of small intestine; tissues	Coccidea protozoa	CPK	WP	sporocysts (16x11 µm) in feces by FF. Via eating herbivore (often farm animals) meat.
<i>Dipylidium caninum</i>	Comm.		small intestine	Tapeworm cestode	CVPMK, etc.	VWPM	about 20 or less eggs (round to oval: dia. ~45 µm each) in an oblong packet, or individual egg broken out found by EAS or FF, but more often found are proglottids by gross exam. The rice grain-like motile proglottid has two genital pores (near middle of each lateral margin). Each egg contains an oncosphere that has 6 hooklets. Via ingestion of fleas.

<i>Taenia taeniaeformis</i>	Comm.	= <i>Hydatigera taeniaeformis</i>	small intestine	Tapeworm cestode	CVPMK, etc.	VWP	proglottids by gross examination of feces, anal area, or eggs (dia. 31-37 µm) passed in feces by FF or EAS. Squeeze proglottid between 2 slides to release and examine eggs. "Taenia -type" egg: Brown, contains a hexacanth embryo, 6 hooklets; shell is thick, radially striated. <i>Taenia</i> eggs appear identical to <i>Echinococcus spp</i> 's. Via eating rodent.
<i>Taenia hydatigena</i>	Rare	(←- rare in cats; more common in farm dogs.)	small intestine	Tapeworm cestode	K	----	proglottids by gross examination of feces, anal area, or eggs by FF or EAS; "Taenia -type" eggs. Via eating cloven-hooved animal meat, rarely hares and rodents.
<i>Taenia ovis</i>	Rare		small intestine	Tapeworm cestode	K	----	proglottids by gross examination of feces, anal area, or eggs by FF or EAS; "Taenia -type" eggs. Via eating sheep or goat meat.
<i>Taenia pisiformis</i>	Rare	(←-Common in dogs, rarely in cats)	small intestine	Tapeworm cestode	MK	V	proglottids by gross examination of feces, or eggs (dia. 35-40 µm) by FF or EAS. "Taenia -type" eggs. Squeeze proglottid between 2 slides to release and examine eggs, which appear identical to <i>Echinococcus spp</i> 's. Via eating rabbit.
<i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i>	Rare	(<i>E. granulosus</i> in dogs similar)	small intestine	Tapeworm cestode	CVPK	VWP	eggs (dia. 32-38 µm) in feces by FF or EAS. <i>Echinococcus</i> eggs appear identical to <i>Taenia spp</i> 's. Eggs released from proglottids in intestine. Via eating vole.
<i>Spirometra mansonioides</i>	Uncommon		small intestine	Tapeworm cestode	CPK	W	proglottids in feces by gross exam or eggs in feces by FF or EAS. Distribution: Eastern and Gulf Coast areas of US. Eggs sometimes mistaken for hookworm eggs, though larger and have hard-to-see operculum. Via eating amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal.
<i>Diphyllobothrium latum</i>	Rare	= <i>Dibothriocephalus latus</i>	small intestine	Broad Fish Tapeworm	CPK	WP	eggs (75x45 µm) in feces by EAS; not always float in FF.
<i>Mesocestoides spp.</i>	Uncommon	(<i>M. variabilis</i>)	small intestine	Tapeworm cestode	CVPK	V	proglottids in feces by gross exam. Via eating amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal.
<i>Toxocara cati</i>	Comm.	= <i>T. mystax</i> (<i>T. canis</i> in dogs similar)	small intestine	Roundworm nematode	CVPMK, etc.	VMWDL	eggs (dia. 65-75 µm subspherical) in feces by FF or EAS. Egg has a pitted shell. Dark zygote fills up the embryo sac. Eggs infectious in several weeks. Via direct ingestion of egg, rodent, or via milk to kitten.
<i>Toxascaris leonina</i>	Comm.		small intestine	Roundworm nematode	CVPMK, etc.	VWPML	eggs (oval: 75-85 x 60-75 µm) in feces by FF or EAS. Eggs are colorless, mostly smooth and has prominent ropy middle shell membrane; infectious in several days. Zygote does not fill up the egg. Via direct ingestion of egg or rodent; no transmammmary transmission to kittens.
<i>Ancylostoma tubaeforme</i>	Comm.		GI tract	Hookworm nematode	CVPK, etc.	VW	eggs (oval: 64 x 41 µm) in feces by FF or EAS. (Likely shares char. with <i>A. braziliense</i> . See below.) Via ingestion of L3 larvae.
<i>Ancylostoma braziliense</i>	Uncommon		small intestine	Hookworm nematode	PMK	PD	eggs in fecal by FF. (60x40 µm); Oval or ellipsoidal shape, thin shell. Distribution: Florida to N. Carolina in US. The occasional L1 stage larvae in > 24 hour old feces is diagnostic. Can culture larvae for detection. Via ingestion of larvae, larval penetration through skin.
<i>Uncinaria spp.</i>		(<i>U. stenocephala</i>)	GI tract	Hookworm nematode	CV	V	eggs in feces by FF. (Likely same as <i>Ancylostoma spp</i> ?)
<i>Physaloptera spp.</i>	Rare	(<i>P. praeputialis</i>)	stomach	Stomach worm nematode	CVPM	VMW	eggs containing larvae in feces, worms in vomitus
<i>Physaloptera rara</i>	Uncommon		stomach	Stomach worm nematode	CPK	P	eggs (oval: 30-34x40-58 µm) in feces by EAS or direct smear; won't float. (NaNO ₃ FF floats?) Eggs thick-walled and contain larva. Via eating beetle, cricket.
<i>Strongyloides stercoralis</i>	Rare	(Also found in people)	small intestine	Threadworm nematode	CVPK	VWPD	L1 or L3 larvae in feces by Baermann Technique. ZnSO ₄ FF may float larvae. Via L3 stage larvae penetrating skin.
<i>Trichinella spiralis</i>			small intestine	Threadworm nematode	CP	PD	Muscle biopsy, ELISA. Also sometimes adult worm (M: 1.5mm, F: 3.5mm) in diarrhetic feces? (Larvae, typically coiled, not in feces?). Via eating meat of another animal.
<i>Aelurostrongylus abstrusus</i>	Uncommon		lung	Lungworm nematode	CVP, etc.	VWP	L1 larvae in feces by Baermann Technique. ZnSO ₄ FF may float larvae. Via cats eating slugs and snails.
<i>Eucoleus aerophilus</i>	Uncommon	= <i>Capillaria aerophila</i>	trachea & bronchi	Lungworm nematode	CVP	VWPD	eggs (70x35 µm) in feces by FF. Egg with bipolar plugs (asymmetrically located) and a rough surface ("netted" appearance). Via eating earthworms.

<i>Aonchotheca putorii</i>		= <i>Capillaria putorii</i> ?	stomach & small intestine	Capillarid nematode	C	----	eggs in feces
<i>Trichuris campanula</i>	Rare	(In cats rare and unimportant; <i>T. vulpis</i> in dogs similar.)	colon, cecum of large intestine	Whipworm nematode	PMK	WPD	eggs (63-85x30-36 µm) in feces by FF. Egg has smooth shell, lemon-shaped, yellow to brown, with unstained bipolar plugs. Via direct ingestion of egg.
<i>Oncicola canis</i>	Rare		small intestine	Thorny-headed worm	VK	V	eggs (45x65 µm, brown, thick-shelled, embryonated, wide oval.) in feces. (Lifecycle involves arthropods.)
<i>Pearsonema plica</i>	Uncommon	= <i>Capillaria plica</i>	urinary bladder	Capillarid nematode	CP	P	eggs in urine by Urine Sedimentation. (65x25 µm) Egg with bipolar plugs (asymmetrical) and a rough surface. Via eating earthworm.
<i>Paragonimus kellicotti</i>	Uncommon		lung	Lung Fluke trematode	CVP	VWD	eggs in feces by EAS. (Trematode eggs sink in FF.) Via eating crayfish.
<i>Platynosomum fastosum</i>	Rare		bile duct & gall bladder	Bile Duct Fluke trematode	P	----	eggs (34-50 x 20-35 µm) in feces by EAS. (Trematode eggs sink in FF.) Via eating lizard.
<i>Platynosomum concinnum</i>	Rare		liver	Liver Fluke trematode	C	----	eggs in feces by EAS. (Trematode eggs sink in FF.)
<i>Parametorchis complexus</i>	Rare		Bile duct	Bile Duct Fluke trematode	CP	----	eggs (24-12 µm) in feces by EAS. Via eating fish.
<i>Eurytrema procyonis</i>	Rare		pancreatic duct	Pancreatic Fluke trematode	P	----	eggs in feces (56x36 µm) by EAS. (Trematode eggs sink in FF.) Via eating grasshopper/insects.
<i>Apophallus spp.</i>			small intestine	Fluke trematode	C	----	???
<i>Cryptocotyle lingua</i>			small intestine	Fluke trematode	C	----	???
<i>Alaria americana</i>	Rare		small intestine	Trematode	<i>C(americana)</i> <i>P(marciannae)</i>	WP	eggs (98-134 x 62-68 µm) in feces by EAS for undistorted eggs; ZnSO ₄ FF may sometimes float eggs. Via eating tadpole, frog, snake, bird, mammal.

(Above fecally-detectable parasites only.)

D: [CDC Image Library]: http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/HTML/ImageLibrary/A_Listing_il.htm

M: [Parasites of Felids]: <http://www.parasitology.org/Byhost/Felids.htm> Includes symptoms, treatments.

P: [Parasites of the Cat]: <http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/dxendopar/parasitlists/pclist.html> Includes symptoms, treatments.

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