# INTESTINAL PARASITES

If your pet is showing any signs of being infected by an intestinal parasite, please call us today.

#### ROUNDWORMS

- Infects both dogs and cats and is often passed to puppies and kittens in utero and from mother's milk
- Acquired by ingesting contaminated soil or feces, or eating infected rodents
  - Live in small intestine and cause intestinal blockage and death
  - Symptoms: mild or intermittent vomiting and diarrhea, pot-bellied appearance, anemia, weakness, stunted growth

# **TAPEWORMS**

- Infects both dogs and cats
- Acquired by ingesting infected fleas, small rodents or rabbits
- Adult tapeworms can grow long and block the intestines
- Symptoms: segments in the feces and/or around the anus that resemble grains of rice, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, lethargy, weight loss

#### **HOOKWORMS**

- Infects both dogs and cats and can be transmitted during nursing
- Acquired by ingesting larvae or larvae penetrating skin or feet
- Attach to lining of small intestine and feed off the blood of their host
- Can cause sudden collapse and death, especially in young animals
- Symptoms: tarry or bloody diarrhea, weight loss, emaciation, anemia, weakness
- Can be passed to humans

#### **WHIPWORMS**

- Infects dogs; extremely rare in cats
- Acquired by ingesting eggs in contaminated soil or feces
- Small, thin worms that attach to the large intestine
- Symptoms: diarrhea, bloody stools, weight loss, anemia, fatigue

## GIARDIA

- · Infects dogs and cats
- Acquired by ingesting contaminated feces, food or water
  - Symptoms: chronic soft stools or watery diarrhea, weight loss, lethargy

## **COCCIDIA**

- Infects dogs and cats, especially common in young and stressed animals
- Acquired by ingesting contaminated soil or feces or an infected rodent
- · Can cause death in young animals