# Experts Warn of Rising Risks of Tapeworm and Roundworm Infections in Cats Putting Humans at Risk



Recent publications have highlighted the increase in risks of tapeworm and roundworm infections in cats, which can also affect humans. Experts emphasize that the likelihood of these parasites taking up residence in cats is significantly higher if the animals are not regularly de-wormed.

Tapeworms can grow up to 16 feet in dogs and hook into the lining of a pet's bowels, leading to symptoms such as diarrhea, fatigue, and weight loss. Roundworms are also prevalent and can cause serious health issues in humans, including potential damage to children’s eyesight.

Renowned science photographer Dr. David Maitland, using a variety of microscopes, captured detailed images of these parasites. The images were released by Drontal and Dronspot, pet worming treatment brands. Their research, involving 1,000 cat owners, revealed that only 23% had de-wormed their cat in the past month and just 34% had done so in the past three months.

Daniel Thiem from Drontal and Dronspot stated that despite their tiny size, these parasites are not harmless. He advised that even indoor cats could contract worms from other pets, flea ingestion, or contaminated surfaces.

The study also found that 37% of cat owners do not regularly give their pets de-worming medication, and 45% often forget to do so. With symptoms like an itchy behind and rice-like pieces in droppings, worm infections can be difficult for many owners to identify.

Cat worms can pose health hazards to humans by lodging in organs such as the eyes, liver, heart, and brain. Therefore, regular de-worming is recommended to keep pets and their families safe.