COMMON INTERNAL PARASITE’S LIFE CYCLES

Heartworm Lifecycle
*Dirofilaria immitis*

1. Mosquito bites infected animal picking up *D. immitis*
2. Mosquito passes *D. immitis* to the next animal it bites
3. Microfilaria (larvae) migrate to right side of heart – 3 months
4. Microfilaria mature in the heart – 3 months
5. After 6 months, adult worms begin producing microfilaria that are released into bloodstream.

Hookworm Lifecycle
*Ancylostoma caninum*

1. Larvae are passed to the host through direct or indirect means
2. Larvae migrate to lungs and into trachea
3. Larvae are coughed up and swallowed, ending up in the small intestine
4. Larvae mature, begin to feed, and shed eggs in feces
5. Eggs develop into larvae

COMMON INTERNAL PARASITE’S LIFE CYCLES

Tapeworm Lifecycle
*Dipylidium caninum*

1. Flea larvae eat eggs
2. Flea matures
3. Pet eats flea
4. Parasite larvae migrate to small intestine where they mature
5. Proglottids containing eggs are shed in feces

Roundworm Lifecycle
*Toxocara canis*
*Toxocara cati*
*Toxascaris leonina*

1. Parasite enters host through direct or indirect (mouse) route
2. Parasite migrates through various organs to the lungs and into the trachea
3. Larvae are swallowed and mature to adults in the small intestine.
4. Eggs are shed in the feces
Parasite can be passed to young
Egg embryonates

COMMON INTERNAL PARASITE’S LIFE CYCLES

**Flea Lifecycle**
*Ctenocephalides*

1. Female flea feeds on host’s blood and lays eggs
2. Eggs fall off host
3. Eggs hatch in 2 to 12 days
4. Larvae spins cocoon and pupates for 7 days to a year
5. Adult emerges and finds new host

**Whipworm Lifecycle**
*Trichuris vulpis*

1. Eggs are eaten by host
2. Larvae hatch and begin development in the intestines
3. Larvae mature to adults in the cecum or large intestine
4. Eggs are passed in feces
5. Eggs develop infective larvae

COMMON INTERNAL PARASITE’S LIFE CYCLES

Mite Lifecycle

*Demodex canis*

Demodex burrow into hair follicles – other species burrow into skin or live in ear canals

Egg

Transmitted to young by direct contact

Nymph

Larva

Lice Lifecycle

1. Adult lice must live on the host at all times

2. Adult lice lay eggs called nits that stick to host’s hair

3. Nit develops into an immature adult stage (nymph), then into an adult

4. Lice are passed to others by direct contact with an infested host

*Mallophaga Anoplura*

Tick Lifecycle
*IXODES DAMMINI*

- Adults mate and feed on deer
- Eggs
- Larva
- Larvae feed on small mammals

Nymphs feed on dogs, other mammals, and humans