IN YOUR REGION

Top 5 Regional Parasites: A Quick Guide for Pet Owners

The northeastern United States is the epicenter for Lyme disease, but ticks are only one of several common parasites that affect pets in this region. Here's a quick guide to the top 5 most common parasites in the Northeast and how to protect your pet from infestations.

PARASITE	WHAT ARE THEY?	WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THEM?
Black-legged ticks	Ticks are external parasites that live freely but must feed on pets periodically. Infected ticks can transmit Lyme disease and anaplasmosis to pets and people.	• Use tick prevention products on dogs year-round. • ***Do not*** use dog products on cats.
Giardia	*Giardia* is a protozoan parasite that causes diarrhea and may be passed to immunocompromised individuals.	• Bathe infected pets after treatment. • Clean up feces promptly, clean your home regularly, and practice good hygiene.
Roundworms	Roundworms are intestinal parasites that cause minor gastrointestinal effects in pets but pose a significant danger to children who accidentally consume infective eggs.	• Administer heartworm preventives that also control intestinal parasites. • Check fecal tests 4 times a year in puppies and kittens and twice annually in adults.
Fleas	Fleas are external parasites that infest pets and homes, cause allergic reactions, and can transmit diseases to people and pets.	• Administer veterinary-approved flea preventives ***to all household pets*** year-round.
Heartworms	Transmitted by mosquitoes, heartworms cause serious heart and lung disease that can be fatal in dogs and cats.	• Administer a monthly heartworm preventive. • Have your dog tested for heartworms annually.

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