Cestode

-Dog

ggs. Dipylidium caninum, Taenia multiceps

CS-Rarely, heavy
infections can cause soft or diarrheic feces, restlessness, abdominal pain, dull coat, and excessive grooming of the perineum due to pruritus.

- Drug: Praziquantel has been used successfully to treat diphyllobothriidean tapeworms in dogs and cats; however, a higher-than-labeled dose (25 mg/kg orally) and extended duration of treatment (2 consecutive days) may be required to eliminate the infection. Praziquantel and epsiprantel are considered the treatments of choice because they are highly effective against D. caninum, the most common tapeworm of dogs and cats, as well as Taenia spp.
- Praziquantel is approved at 5mg/kg orally or subcutaneously for elimination of various Taenia spp., Echinococcus spp., and D. caninum (dogs and cats).
  - Only praziquantel is labeled as effective against Echinococcus spp. (not labeled as effective in all formulations; check “Product Applications for Dogs” for specific label claims).
- Epsiprantel can be administered at 5.5 mg/kg orally (dogs) to eliminate infections with T. pisiformis and T. taeniaeformis, respectively, and for D. caninum.
- Fenbendazole at 50 mg/kg orally for three consecutive days will eliminate T. pisiformis (dogs).
- For dogs, praziquantel is formulated with some heartworm preventives to provide broad-spectrum internal parasite control. For cats, praziquantel is formulated with emodepside to provide broad-spectrum internal parasite control (check “Product Applications for Cats” for specific label claims).
- Treatment of tapeworms in dogs must be combined with appropriate management, such as flea control and prevention of ingestion of prey species; in the absence of these changes, re-infection is likely to occur.

Control and Prevention

- In dogs that are allowed outside or that are known to have predatory behavior, a heartworm preventive containing praziquantel will routinely treat Taenia infections. Similarly, monthly treatments will treat infections with D. caninum obtained from the ingestion of fleas.
- Stringent adherence to controlling fleas and lice is required to prevent *D. caninum* in dogs and cats.
- Prevention of predation and scavenging activity by keeping cats indoors and dogs confined to a leash or in a fenced yard will limit the opportunity for dogs and cats to acquire infection with *Taenia* spp. or *Echinococcus* spp. via ingestion of cysts in intermediate hosts.

**Cat**

e.g. Spirometra mansonoides, *Taenia taenideaformis*

**CS-Rarely**, heavy infections can cause soft or diarrheic feces, restlessness, abdominal pain, dull coat, and excessive grooming of the perineum due to pruritus.

- **Drug-** Praziquantel has been used successfully to treat diphyllobothriidean tapeworms in dogs and cats; however, a higher-than-labeled dose (25 mg/kg orally) and extended duration of treatment (2 consecutive days) may be required to eliminate the infection. Praziquantel and epsiprantel are considered the treatments of choice because they are highly effective against *D. caninum*, the most common tapeworm of dogs and cats, as well as *Taenia* spp.
- Praziquantel is approved at 5mg/kg orally or subcutaneously for elimination of various *Taenia* spp., *Echinococcus* spp., and *D. caninum* (dogs and cats).
- Epsiprantel can be administered at 2.75 mg/kg orally (cats) to eliminate infections with *T. pisiformis* and *T. taenideaformis*, respectively, and for *D. caninum*.
- For cats, praziquantel is formulated with emodepside to provide broad-spectrum internal parasite control (check “Product Applications for Cats” for specific label claims).
- Treatment of tapeworms in cats must be combined with appropriate management, such as flea control and prevention of ingestion of prey species; in the absence of these changes, re-infection is likely to occur.