

## Cestode

### -Dog

egs. *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 diphylobothriidean 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

egs. *Spirometra mansonoides*, *Taenia taeniaeformis*

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 diphyllbothriidean 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. taeniaeformis*, 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.