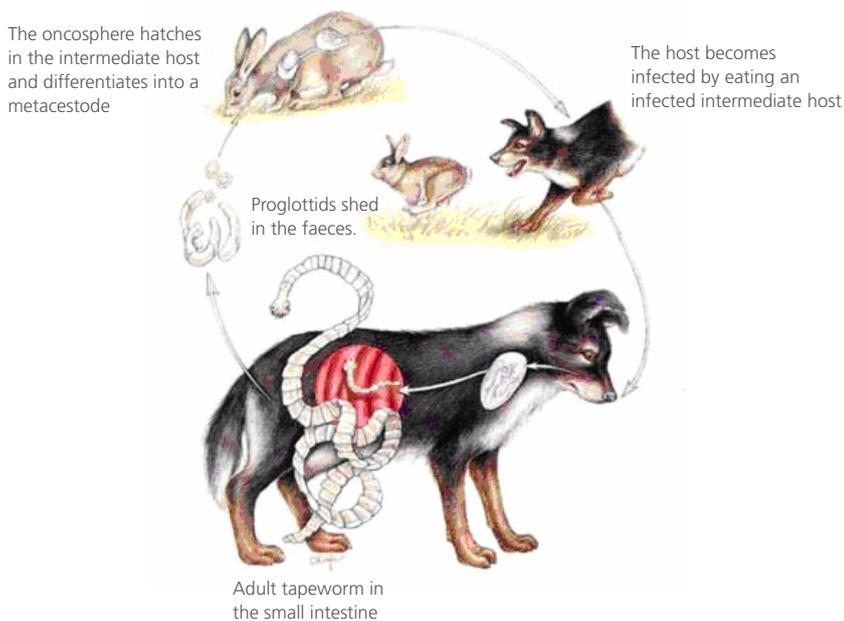




## Tapeworms (Taenia)



### Diagnostic Plan

History  
Physical examination  
Detection of tapeworm segments in the stool

### Therapeutic Plan

Dewormers  
Control of patient's hunting and eating habits

### Nutritional Plan

Nutrition based on individual patient evaluation including body condition and other organ system involvement or disease

Taenia (te'-ne-ah) tapeworms are parasites found in the small intestine of dogs and cats. Deworming and restricting your pet's access to wild animals and contaminated meat will eliminate Taenia infections. Should you be concerned about your pet having a tapeworm infestation, please consult your veterinarian.

## What You Should Know About Tapeworms (Taenia):

Adult Taenia tapeworms live in the small intestine of dogs and cats where they produce eggs that are passed in the stool. The eggs are contained in segments called proglottids that detach from the rest of the tapeworm. These eggs contaminate the food supply of rodents, wild rabbits, sheep, cattle and pigs. Once ingested by a suitable host, the tapeworm egg hatches and develops in the host's tissues. Dogs and cats acquire Taenia tapeworm infections when they eat contaminated meat from one of these sources.



## Signs

Normally, infections with Taenia tapeworms are not especially harmful to adult dogs and cats. Severe infections in young animals may cause nonspecific signs such as an unhealthy appearance and diarrhoea. Occasionally, proglottids may crawl out of a dog's anus and irritate the surrounding tissues. A dog affected in this manner may drag its bottom (scoot) on the ground.

## Diagnosis

Taenia infections are diagnosed when your veterinarian identifies proglottids or eggs. Taenia proglottids are white and rectangular or bell-shaped and may be found in your pet's stool, on its coat near the anus or on your furniture. Fresh proglottids may be seen crawling about in these locations.

Pets with Taenia infections have usually had access to rodents or rabbits or they have been fed raw meat.

## Treatment and Home Care

Dewormers designed to eliminate Taenia infections are highly effective but reinfection may occur unless measures are taken to control your pet's hunting habits. Rabbits, mice, rats and raw meat from sheep, goats, cattle and pigs should not be fed to your pet.

## Nutritional Plan

After your pet has been treated for Taenia infection, your veterinarian may suggest a dietary change based on your pet's age and body condition and on the presence or absence of disease in other organs and body systems. Optimal nutrition should provide for a pet's needs during each stage of its life and reduce the health risks associated with feeding excessive amounts of sodium, calcium, phosphorus, protein and fat. Foods that avoid these harmful excesses and provide proper nutrition for each life stage include the Hill's™ Science Plan™ brand of pet foods for dogs and cats.

## Transitioning Food

Unless recommended otherwise by your veterinarian, gradually introduce any new food over a seven-day period. Mix the new food with your pet's former food, gradually increasing its proportion until only the new food is fed.

If your pet doesn't readily accept new food, try warming canned food to body temperature and hand feeding for the first few days or mixing dry food with warm water (wait ten minutes before serving). \* Finally, be patient but firm with your pet.

\* Please note. We do not recommend adding water to cat food.



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