



# Routine parasite control procedures for cats in Cats Protection care

These procedures are written as guidance for cats in the care of Cats Protection. More frequent treatment for fleas and worms may be required if a cat or kitten has a heavy burden of fleas or worms on entering Cats Protection's care. The veterinary surgeon's advice must be sought prior to treatment. The products that we use for parasite treatment are prescription only medications (POM-V). This means that before the first treatment is given, the cat must have a clinical assessment with a veterinary surgeon, to comply with legislation set out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). The only exception to this is cats entering care with extremely heavy flea burden, these may be treated with a Capstar tablet (a non-prescription medication) ahead of clinical assessment with a veterinary surgeon. If a cat moves under the care of a different vet eg from branch to centre care, the cat must be clinically assessed by the new vet before any flea and worm treatment is given. As per Cats Protection guidelines, all cats should have a clinical assessment with a vet every three months. Do not treat any cats on any other medication (or given any other medication within the last two weeks) without seeking veterinary advice first.

- Always wear gloves when handling and administering medication and wash hands straight afterwards.
- Ensure accurate bodyweight of the cat is obtained before dosing with flea or worm treatment and seek advice before treating underweight (less than body condition score of 2/5) or unwell cats or those on other medication.
- See the drug datasheets for further information.
- Apply all topical treatments to the back of the cat's neck where it can't lick itself
- Do not apply topical treatments to a wet cat, wait until it is dry and do not bath the cat for 48 hours after any topical treatment.
- Ensure your veterinary surgeon is aware of any flea or worming treatment that has been used on the cat that you are aware of in the last two weeks (for example before coming in to care)

This parasite control guidance, produced for cats in Cats Protection care, does not translate to owned cats where husbandry and parasite exposure may differ significantly. Instead, owners should be directed to seek specific veterinary advice for parasite control guidance for their own pet.

## Adult cats, and kittens over eight weeks of age that weigh over 1.25kg

### Flea and roundworm treatment

Stronghold Plus spot-on solution for cats:

Bodyweight of cat	Treatment
>1.25kg-2.5kg	Stronghold Plus 15mg/2.5mg (yellow cap)
>2.5kg - 5kg	Stronghold Plus 30mg/5mg (orange cap)
5kg - 10kg	Stronghold Plus 60mg/10mg (green cap)



## When?

- After the first vet check
- At adoption (if longer than five weeks since last dose)
- Every 5 weeks while in Cats Protection care
- Stronghold Plus can also be used for the treatment of ear mites under the direction of your vet

If a cat comes into care with a very heavy flea burden, and cannot be seen immediately by a vet, a single dose of Capstar 11.4mg Tablets for Cats and Dogs can be given. As this product is available as a general sales item (AVM-GSL) it does not require veterinary assessment ahead of treatment. One Capstar tablet can be given to a cat between one and 11kg. Do not give to kittens less than four weeks old or less than 1kg in weight.

## Kittens over 8 weeks of age but weighing less than 1.25kg

Kittens falling into this category may be treated for fleas using Frontline spray (from 2 days old to 7 weeks of age) or (if the attending vet is happy to prescribe) Broadline from 7 weeks of age.

## Using Stronghold Plus in pregnant and lactating cats

The safety of Stronghold Plus has not been established during pregnancy and lactation or in animals intended for breeding. However, selamectin is considered safe for use in breeding, pregnant and lactating cats. While the safety of sarolaner has not been evaluated in breeding, pregnant or lactating cats, laboratory studies with sarolaner in rats and rabbits have not produced any evidence of teratogenic effects. Use only according to the benefit-risk assessment by the prescribing vet.

## Tapeworm treatment

Milpro film-coated tablets for kittens and cats:

Bodyweight of cat	Treatment
0.5-1kg	Milpro 4mg/10mg for small cats and kittens – half a tablet (dark brown)
>1kg-2kg	Milpro 4mg/10mg for small cats and kittens – 1 tablet (dark brown)
2-4kg	Milpro 16mg/40mg for cats, half a tablet (red-pink)
>4-8kg	Milpro 16mg/40mg for cats, one tablet (red-pink)
>8-12kg	Milpro 16mg/40mg for cats, one and a half a tablet (red-pink)



Stronghold Plus and Milpro both contain macrocyclic lactones. However advise from the manufacturer is that both products may be given at the same time. If there are any concerns with a particular cat, a two week gap could be given some consideration to allow for maximum interval between dosing the two separate products.

Unlike other medications, half tablets of Milpro can be stored in the original packaging until needed, which helps reduce wastage.

For cats that are difficult to treat with a tablet, Droncit spot on 20mg solution is available that can be used but it is considerably more expensive. 48 hours should be left between Stronghold Plus and Droncit application. The spot on solutions should be applied in slightly different areas and this be noted in the records, so that if a skin reaction were to occur it is clear which product caused it.

Droncit spot on 20mg solution:

Bodyweight of cat	Treatment
1 - 2.5kg	1 tube of Droncit spot on 20mg solution applied topically
>2.5 – 5kg	2 tubes of Droncit spot on 20mg solution applied topically
>5kg	3 tubes of Droncit spot on 20mg solution applied topically

## Kittens under eight weeks of age and weighing less than 1.25kg

### Flea treatment 0 to eight weeks of age:

Flea treatment is not routinely required for kittens until they are six to seven weeks of age, if the queen was adequately treated prior to birth and is housed in a flea free environment. If treatment is needed, or if the previous history of flea treatment is unknown, use Frontline spray applied to kittens over two days of age topically (number of pumps depends on bottle size, coat length and bodyweight). Kittens do not need to be clinically assessed ahead of the use of Frontline spray as it is not prescription only. (NFA-VPS). Alternatively, Broadline may be applied from seven weeks of age (but this must be prescribed for the kitten by the attending vet).

### Worm treatment 0 to four weeks of age:

No treatment



### Worm treatment four to six weeks of age:

Panacur Small Animal 10% Oral Suspension or Panacur 18.75% Oral Paste given by mouth. Give kitten dose once daily for three days - see Panacur kitten dose table. Kittens do not have to have a clinical assessment before using Panacur as it is not a prescription only medication. The use of Panacur paste in cats weighing less than 1kg is off licence, however Cats Protection would consider it reasonable to use in this situation. The attending vet must ok the use of Panacur paste in kittens weighing less than 1kg.

### Panacur dose chart for kittens

Bodyweight of kitten	Dose of Panacur Small Animal 10% Oral Suspension to be given by mouth daily for three days (0.5ml per kg bodyweight)	Dose of Panacur 18.75% Oral Paste to be given by mouth daily for three days (one notch/syringe graduation per kg bodyweight)
0.25kg	0.13ml	One notch
0.5kg	0.25ml	One notch
0.75kg	0.38ml	One notch
1.0kg	0.5ml	One notch
1.25kg	0.63ml	Two notchs
1.5kg	0.75ml	Two notchs
1.75kg	0.88ml	Two notchs
2.0kg	1.0ml	Two notchs

See datasheet for full instruction.

### Feral Cats

Feral cats should be given a single treatment for roundworm, tapeworm and fleas under general anaesthesia as part of a Trap-Neuter-Return programme.

Stronghold Plus spot-on solution for cats can be used to treat for fleas, ticks and round worms. If the vet has clinical concerns about tapeworm infestation they may consider using another product alongside Stronghold Plus.

### Flea control in the environment

Areas used to house or transport cats will need to be treated for fleas periodically, to control environmental sources of flea infection. Environmental sprays may be needed every six months or more frequently, depending on facilities and conditions. Seek veterinary advice on an appropriate product and guidance on its application. Our commonly ordered products list is available for guidance.