

# Rainbow Readers

## Title: Keeping Pets Safe from Parasites

### Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

bump	infect	vomiting	medication	microscope
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1. If you have a cold, you should stay home so you do not infect others.
2. This itchy red bump on my arm is probably a mosquito bite.
3. Some parasites are so small, you need a(n) microscope to see them.
4. Food poisoning usually causes body aches and vomiting.
5. The doctor gave her medication to help her sleep.

## Reading Comprehension

### A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Most parasites are easy to get rid of. T / F
2. Fleas are internal parasites. T / F
3. You should vacuum your home after treating a pet for fleas. T / F
4. Ear mites can be found outside and inside the ear. T / F
5. Hookworms often affect puppies and kittens. T / F

### B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. (Ticks / Fleas) are excellent jumpers.
2. Ticks are good at (moving fast / hiding).
3. Ear mites should be prevented by (owners / veterinarians).
4. Whipworms (rarely / often) affect people.
5. Pets can get (roundworms / hookworms) by eating soil.

### C. Choose the best answer.

1. How often should pets be tested for parasites?

- a. Once a month
- b. Once a year
- c. Twice a year
- d. Every two years

2. Which is NOT true about ticks?

- a. They can make your pet feel weak.
- b. They are often found in the woods.
- c. They also attach themselves to people.
- d. They should be crushed with tweezers.

3. What do ear mites feed on?

- a. Blood
- b. Wax and oil
- c. Skin and hair
- d. Food in the intestine

4. Which is true about internal parasites?

- a. You can treat them yourself at home.
- b. Most of them have the same treatment.
- c. They almost never infect humans.
- d. They may live in the stomach or intestine.

5. Which is NOT true about tapeworms?

- a. They are passed to pets by fleas.
- b. They are one of the most harmful parasites.
- c. They have long bodies with many segments.
- d. They travel through the digestive tract.

## Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

tweezers	remove	external	sticky	diagnose
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Parasites have to live on or in other living things to survive. Pets must be protected from them. Prevention is important because it is hard to remove parasites, so pets should see a vet once a year. Parasites may be internal or external. Fleas live on a pet's fur or skin. They cause itching and carry disease. Vets can give you medicine to get rid of them. Like fleas, ticks feed on pets' blood and make them sick. They use a sticky substance to attach themselves. Use tweezers to remove them. Ear mites can crawl into an animal's ears and block them. To avoid them, clean your pet's ears monthly. Common internal parasites include whipworms and hookworms. They eat blood and make pets sick. Roundworms and tapeworms eat the food eaten by your pet. Internal parasites require medicine. Vets often diagnose them from a stool sample. Some of these parasites affect humans, too. For your pet's health and your own, do all you can to prevent parasites.