



# Parasite Procedures FAQs

This document is intended to support our guidelines for routine parasite control for cats in Cats Protection care. This document provides more detailed information on Cats Protection recommended products.



## Why has Cats Protection changed from treating cats monthly with Stronghold?

This decision was made for several reasons. Cats in care are within a controlled environment, so general recommendations for owned cats may not be appropriate for cats in care. Even for owned cats, due to concerns regarding the environmental impact of the flea and worm treatments used in domestic animals, regularity of treatment is now advised to be based on the animal's individual risks and lifestyle to reduce overuse of products. In the shelter setting, using more treatments than is required has additional impact, often the application of products is stressful, and there are cost implications too.

## Why isn't Cats Protection using Stronghold Plus or another tick product?

Cats Protection does not view ticks as a parasite that needs preventative treatment in the shelter environment (advice for owned cats will differ).

- Ticks are generally found in moorland, long grass or woodland
- They prefer moist, dark, protected areas and tend to move from long grass onto a warm-blooded host, such as a cat, when they pass by
- The likelihood of a Cats Protection cat in a clean pen or foster room/house being affected by ticks is very low

If a cat comes into Cats Protection care with ticks already attached to them:

- Frontline spray can be used as an effective treatment and can be found on the Cats Protection Commonly Ordered Products List (Note: Frontline spray shouldn't be used on pregnant or nursing cats. It can be used on kittens over two days old)
- Ticks attached to a cat can be sprayed directly, there is no need to spray the whole cat. If a cat or kitten in your care has been treated with Frontline spray when first coming into care, please inform your vet of this when they see the cat/kitten for their first check-up
- Your vet or vet nurse will be able to use a special tool to remove the tick, ensuring that the mouth and head are fully removed (please don't attempt to pull ticks off as the mouthpiece can be left behind and can cause an infection or an abscess)

**Note:** the combination of Stronghold and Milpro does not prevent or treat ticks

If you find you are having problems with Cats Protection cats and ticks, please consult your branch or centre vet or contact [veterinary@cats.org.uk](mailto:veterinary@cats.org.uk)

# Is it safe to use Stronghold and Milpro together? Are we overdosing on roundworm treatment?

Stronghold and Milpro can safely be given together. The Milpro datasheet states that the concurrent use of the active ingredients of both products is well tolerated. Both products treat roundworms but as the active ingredients in Stronghold and Milpro are different, we're not overdosing on any ingredient.

**Note:** Stronghold and Milpro can only be used in kittens over six weeks old

## How frequently should Milpro be given?

The frequency of worming depends on the individual cat's circumstance such as lifestyle (indoor vs outdoor) and hunting.

### How cats become infected

- Cats ingest an infected host such as a flea or a rodent (therefore flea control is very important)
- The flea or rodent becomes infected with roundworms by ingesting roundworm larvae found in the environment
- Larvae develop from roundworm eggs which are passed in the faeces of infected cats
- The eggs themselves are not infectious but within a few days they develop into the infectious larval form
- Roundworms can also be passed through milk from a mother cat to her kittens (please see the 'Routine parasite control procedures for cats in care' document for information about worming of young kittens in Cats Protection care)

### Cats in care

Because Cats Protection cats live in a clean environment with regular removal of faeces, the likelihood of reinfection with worms after the initial worming treatment is very low while the cat remains in Cats Protection care.

- For cats rehomed within three months, we would generally not recommend giving a repeat Milpro tablet unless this was advised by the attending vet
- For cats in Cats Protection care for longer than three months they should have a three-month veterinary check-up as standard; at this point, we would advise discussing with the attending vet whether they feel a repeat Milpro tablet is necessary

## **What should I do if I can't give a cat a Milpro tablet?**

Milpro tablets are small and have been designed to be palatable and easy to give. If a cat is difficult to give a tablet to:

- first try offering the tablet with some of the cat's favourite food to see if they will eat it voluntarily
- try hiding the tablet in pill putty such as EasiPill
- ask your branch or centre vet to give the worming tablet when the cat has their initial veterinary check-up
- if giving a Milpro tablet isn't possible for an individual cat, then a Droncit spot-on can be applied to provide tapeworm treatment but this is considerably more expensive
  - 48 hours should be left between Stronghold 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

## **Can I give Stronghold and Milpro as soon as a cat comes into care?**

No. Stronghold and Milpro are classified as prescription-only medications (POM-V), meaning a cat must have a clinical assessment with a veterinary surgeon before they can be given.

## **How soon after giving a Capstar tablet can I apply Stronghold and give Milpro?**

This is at the discretion of the attending vet. If a cat in your care has received a Capstar tablet when first coming into care, please inform your vet of this when they see the cat for their first check-up. They will then be able to advise when the first dose of Stronghold and Milpro can be given.

## **If a cat is relinquished to Cats Protection and we are told they have been treated for fleas and worms recently, will a repeat treatment be required?**

This will depend on what product was given and when, as well as whether the cat is showing clinical signs of fleas or worms. Please try and find out as much detail from the previous owner about what product they gave and when and pass this on to your vet. Your vet can then make a decision about whether a further treatment is necessary.

## Can I give Stronghold and Milpro to a cat who is pregnant or lactating?

Stronghold and Milpro can be used in cats during pregnancy and lactation. As with all cases, your branch or centre vet will need to examine the cat before these products are used.

## As it is not possible to give a tablet to a feral cat, is it a problem that they will not be treated for tapeworms?

- One-off parasite treatments in feral cats will have limited benefits due to their lifestyle
- Providing a treatment for fleas and roundworms at the time of neutering may help the cat feel more comfortable in the immediate post-operative period
- Tapeworms rarely cause significant disease in healthy cats, and reinfection in feral cats is likely to occur within a very short time. Therefore treatment is not likely to benefit the cat or the colony
- If the vet has clinical concerns about tapeworm infestation they may consider using another product alongside Stronghold

## What should be used to treat the environment for fleas?

### Indorex Household Flea Spray

This is a spray which treats the home environment for flea infestations. It kills existing adult fleas for up to two months after application and prevents the development of flea eggs and larvae for up to 12 months.

#### How to use:

1. Remove the cat from the foster room.
2. Close all windows and doors.
3. If concerned test a small, hidden area of any fabrics first to ensure no colour damage.
4. Shake the can well and spray about 50cm away from the surface being treated.
5. Spray directly onto floors and pay attention to the skirting boards.
6. Leave the room, close the door and wait for half an hour.
7. Return and ventilate the room by opening the windows for at least an hour.
8. Vacuum thoroughly for seven consecutive days after treatment. The vibrations will ensure any unhatched pupae now hatch and will be killed by the Indorex.

## **This product contains permethrin which is toxic to cats. Should I be worried?**

The concentration of permethrin in the spray is too low to cause any toxicity to cats when used correctly. Indorex has been used for many years in the UK and the makers Virbac claim to have never had a case of toxicity in cats. Permethrin can indeed be toxic to cats especially when dog spot-on flea treatments are used on cats in error. This is due to the dose being significantly larger. By contrast, Indorex is sprayed into the environment, rather than applied directly to a pet. As long as you remove the cats from the environment, spray, leave for half an hour and then ventilate for at least an hour, there is much less exposure. As long as the instructions are followed carefully there should be no risk.

### **As Indorex is only effective against live fleas for two months, do I need to repeat the treatment every two months?**

Because we are also applying Stronghold to the cat, it is unlikely that a foster room would become recontaminated as using Stronghold will have some environmental protection in terms of preventing the fleas completing their lifecycle as well as killing any live fleas. As we also observe thorough cleaning in our rooms and pens, the risk of continued infestation is very low.



[cats.org.uk](https://cats.org.uk)

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