

Hydatid disease

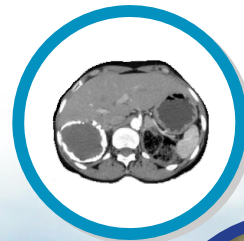
or cystic echinococcosis is a parasitic infection caused by a tapeworm

Hydatid life cycle

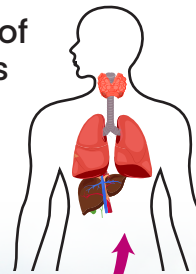
Livestock become infected by eating tapeworm eggs from the poo of infected dogs



Cysts develop in the liver, lungs, heart and brain of infected animals



Hydatid cysts can develop in human internal organs causing serious health problems



Tapeworms develop inside dogs



Dogs become infected when they eat cysts in the offal from infected stock



Humans can get infected through dog poo because it may contain worm eggs that persist in the environment



Hydatid cyst photo by <https://doi.org/10.3390/diagnostics13061127>/CC BY 4.0

NHS

Eileanan Siar
Western Isles

How can you prevent Hydatid disease?

- worm your dog regularly, with a product that is effective against tapeworms
- wash your hands after touching a dog, clearing up dog poo or touching anything that might have been in contact with dog poo
- wash raw fruit and vegetables before eating them
- avoid feeding raw offal to your dog
- do not allow your dog to stray in areas where it could scavenge on sheep carcasses
- always wash your hands after handling dogs
- ensure livestock carcasses are removed and disposed of appropriately, without delay
- use a local abattoir rather than home kill when slaughtering animals.