

Supplementary Material



Fig. S1. Immature *Dipylidium caninum* metacystode observed after dissection of a newly emerged flea in water. The hexacanth hooks from the embryo migrate into a tail which is released. The metacystode thereafter appears ovoid. No suckers, no rostellum, and no hooklets are yet formed.

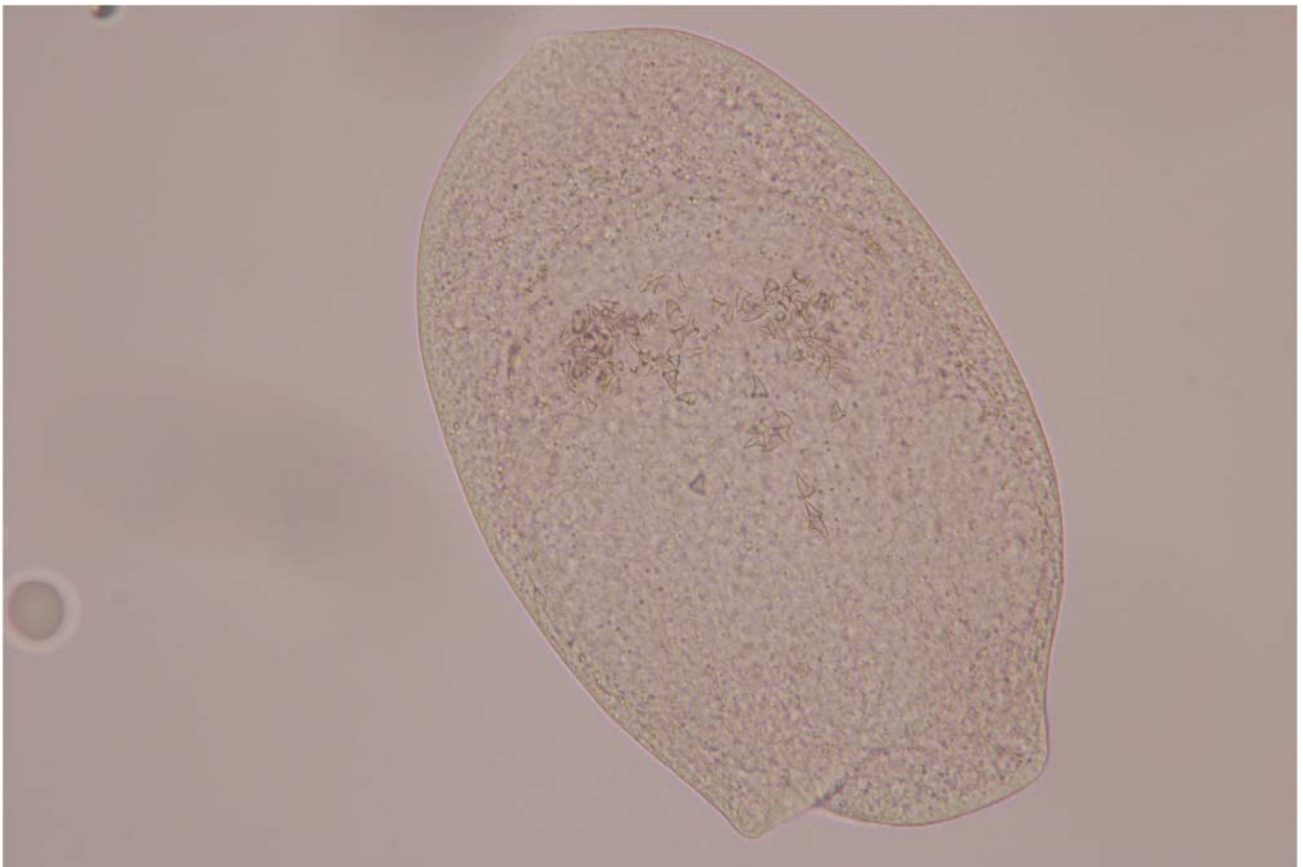


Fig. S2. Immature *Dipylidium caninum* metacystode in development, observed after dissection of a newly emerged flea. The suckers are in formation at one apex of the metacystode. The future hooklets appear in the middle of the larva.

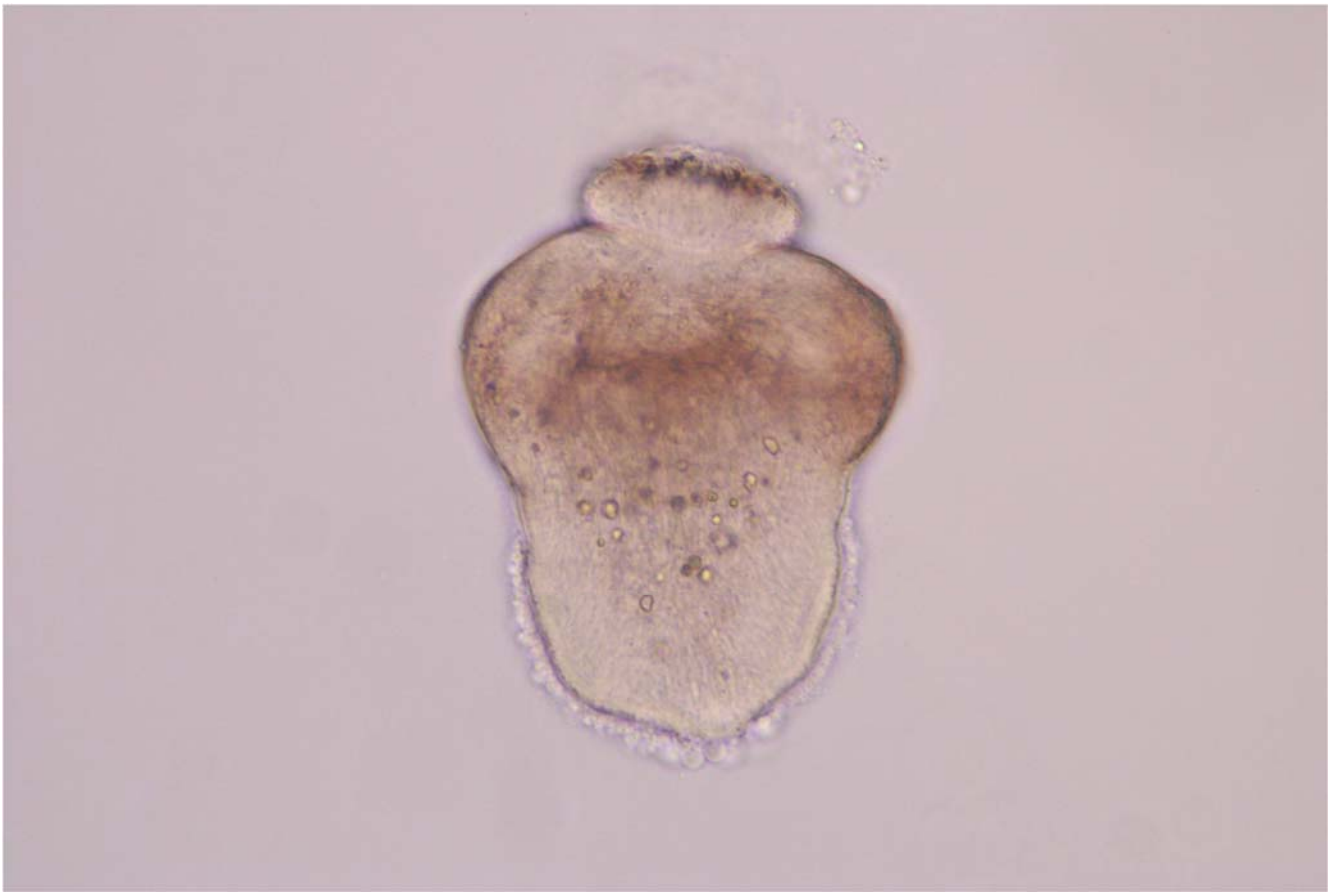


Fig. S3. Mature infective *Dipylidium caninum* metacystode, observed after dissection of a flea collected on the host after 36 hours. The rostellum with hooklets is everted. The suckers are clearly visible. This larval stage is infective for dogs and cats after ingestion.



Fig. S4. *Dipylidium caninum* proglottids visible on dog faeces.

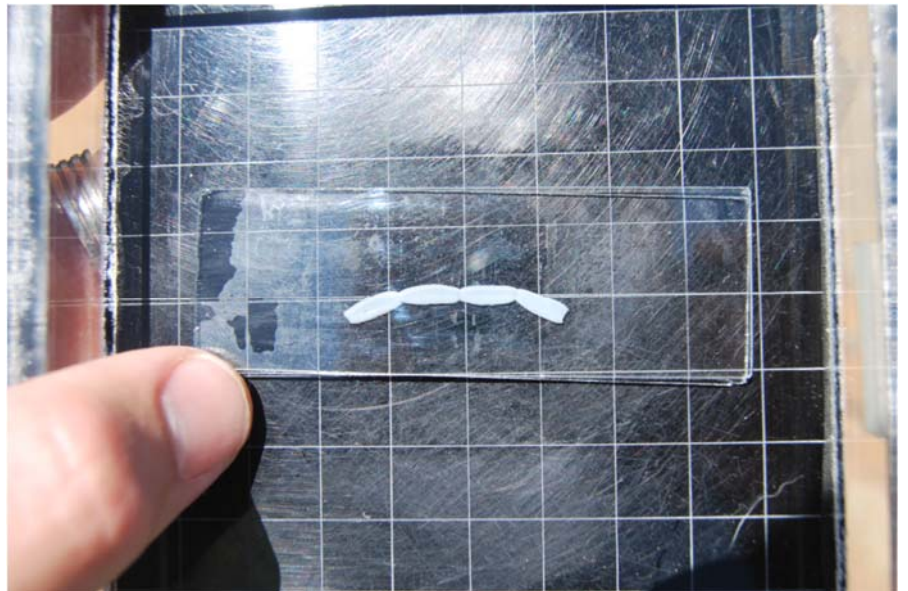


Fig. S5. *Dipylidium caninum* segments containing 4 proglottids recovered from the cage floor.