



IMPORTANCE OF MANAGING PARASITES IN THE OUTDOOR DOG

Brought to you by Merck Animal Health

Dogs are members of the family. And like any four-legged member of the family, it's important to keep them healthy and free of intestinal parasites, especially outdoor dogs which are vulnerable due to environmental exposure.

How dogs get parasites

Parasites are all around us and it's common for a dog to become infected with intestinal parasites at some point in their life. Common sources of parasite infections include:

- Mom. Most puppies are either born with worms they acquired from their mother in utero or they acquire them from nursing.
- The environment. Dogs may ingest infective eggs or immature worms in the environment through the soil, from feces or, in some cases, dogs can pick up parasites through their skin.
- Ingestion of other animals. Worms are transmitted by hosts such as rodents that have consumed the infective stages and act as intermediate hosts.

Spot the signs of worms

The most common parasites seen in dogs in North America include roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and tapeworms. A dog with a heavy parasite infestation can show the following signs:

- Poor stamina
- Diarrhea
- Weight loss
- Dry or dull haircoat
- General poor appearance
- Potbelly (in puppies)

Threat to humans

Intestinal parasites of dogs pose potential health risks to humans, too. That's why it's so important for dogs that enjoy an outdoor lifestyle to be on a regular deworming protocol. Dogs with worms may not show severe clinical signs but even a low parasite burden can cause disease and create environmental contamination.

Choosing the right dewormer

Regular deworming is essential to protecting the health of your dog. SAFE-GUARD® (fenbendazole) Canine Dewormer is a safe and highly effective treatment for six species of the four major parasites found in dogs that spend a lot of time outside, including whipworms and *Taenia* tapeworms, which are often missed by other common dewormers.

SAFE-GUARD® is proven safe for:

- Dogs of all breeds
- Puppies (at least 6 weeks of age)
- Pregnant females
- Older dogs

Consult your veterinarian

By following your veterinarian's recommendations and having your pet tested for parasites annually, you can protect your dog and your family from potentially harmful parasites all year long. For more information, visit www.safe-guard-for-dogs.com.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: For animal use only. Do not use in pups younger than 6 weeks. Do not deworm a dog or puppy that is sick. Approximately 1% of dogs had vomiting associated with the use of this product. Consult your veterinarian for help in the diagnosis, treatment, and control of parasitism.

References:

Companion Animal Parasite Council website <https://capcvet.org/guidelines/>

SAFE-GUARD® Canine Website <https://www.merck-animal-health-usa.com/safe-guard/canine/parasites-101>

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