



IMPORTANCE OF MANAGING PARASITES IN THE OUTDOOR DOG

Brought to you by Merck Animal Health

Dogs are not just pets. They 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. While parasites are a threat to all dogs, outdoor dogs are especially 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. The more your dog is outside, the greater his risk of infection. Common sources of parasite infections include:

- Mom. Most puppies are born with worms they acquired either from their mother in utero or from nursing.
- The environment. Dogs may ingest infective eggs or immature worms in the environment, which can easily be picked up 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. When a dog eats an animal carcass, it also ingests these infective stages of parasites.

Get to know the major culprits

All dogs are susceptible to intestinal parasites and the best way to defend your dog against these parasites is to understand the most common threats impacting dogs in North America.

Roundworms <i>Toxocara canis</i> <i>Toxascaris leonina</i>	Hookworms <i>Ancylostoma caninum</i> <i>Uncinaria stenocephala</i>	Taenia tapeworm <i>Taenia pisiformis</i>	Whipworm <i>Trichuris vulpis</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquired from mother and eggs in the environment• Almost all puppies are born infected• Canine roundworm infections are zoonotic meaning they can be transmitted from animals to humans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquired from mother or larvae in the environment• Eggs survive well in mild temperatures, shade and moist soil or grass• Outdoor dogs can be infected and re-infected by accidentally eating the immature worms in the environment• Canine hookworms are zoonotic, most often causing a skin irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consist of a head from which a series of segments grow• Rabbits or rodents accidentally ingest the eggs when grazing• A developmental stage within the rabbit or rodent is infectious to the dog when it consumes the carcass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infect not only dogs, but also wildlife such as foxes and coyotes• Eggs are passed to the environment in the feces on an intermittent basis where they remain infectious for many years• Not all dewormers are effective against whipworms

[Sidebar]

If your dog is showing these signs, it might be time for deworming.

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

[end sidebar]

Threat to humans

Worms aren't just dangerous to the family dog. They also put people at risk, especially children. Young children are the most vulnerable because of their tendency to put things in their mouth. Most infections in kids and adults happen accidentally by eating roundworm eggs containing immature worms.

Hookworms can cause disease in people when they come in contact with the immature worms. Skin irritation occurs when the hookworm larvae (immature worms) enter the skin and migrate causing severe itching and painful tunnel-like rashes.

Preventing parasite infestations in dogs is not only important for the overall health of the dog, but also reduces human health risks associated with environmental contamination.

Choosing the right dewormer

Regular deworming is essential to protecting the health of your dog. But not just any dewormer will do for your outdoor dog. It's important to select a dewormer that is not only effective against the four major parasites of outdoor dogs but is also extremely safe.

SAFE-GUARD® (fenbendazole) Canine Dewormer is a safe and highly effective treatment for eliminating a variety of intestinal worms including six species of the four major parasites found in dogs that spend a lot of time outside, including whipworms and *Taenia* tapeworms. Safe-Guard is the only broad-spectrum canine dewormer with no warnings or contra-indications.

SAFE-GUARD is safe for:

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

Consult your veterinarian

If you suspect your dog may have parasites, consider scheduling an exam and fecal test with your veterinarian. Worms are usually diagnosed by finding eggs when a stool sample is examined under a microscope.

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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