

Canine Parasites

Common name	Intestinal parasites (worms)				Heartworm	Internal parasites		Other
	Hookworm	Whipworm	Roundworm	Tapeworm		Protozoal infections		
Clinical name	(<i>Ancylostoma caninum</i> and <i>braziliensis</i>)	(<i>Trichuris vulpis</i>)	(Ascarids: <i>Toxocara canis</i>)	(<i>Dipylidium caninum</i> (flea) and <i>Taenia pisiformis</i> (rabbit) most common)	(<i>Dirofilaria immitis</i>)	Coccidiosis	Giardiasis	(Dermatophrosis; Dermatomycosis)
Lethal?	yes-most harmful worm type	possible	possible	no-least harmful	yes-very serious	no-but destroys intest., liver and brain cells	no-less severe than coccidiosis	no
Risk to humans	possible-painful skin sores	no	esp. children (eat dirt)	poss, rare	no	no	no	certain kinds
Prevention/treatment	Incerceptor (milbemycin oxime) to prevent; Panacur to treat. For soil: sodium borate (10 lbs/100 s.f.)	Interceptor may prevent; must sterilize soil or will have to retreat dogs every 3 mos (bleach 1:20 water). Panacur to treat.	Interceptor or Heart-Gard (ivermectin) to prevent; Panacur to treat	effective flea control; Droncit or Cestex to treat infestation; Panacur also (taenia type only)	mosquito control; Prevention: Incerceptor or HeartGard (ivermectin); Treat: 2 shots immiticide to kill worms; 30 days later ivermectin to kill microfilaria.	wash/sterilize bowls; clean up stool, sanitize runs/pen; vet supplied drugs to treat	wash/sterilize bowls; clean up stool, sanitize runs/pen; vet supplied drugs to treat	varies-providine/iodine washes, antifungal cream/drops; systemic antifungal drugs if topicals don't cure
How contracted	oral or thru skin/feet; common in warm/moist/sandy soils; also from mother's milk	often in small/confined outdoor areas; dogs swallow eggs; larvae persistent/live long time in environment	very common (nearly all puppies and 70% of adults) though easily removed; contact with stool	very common, very difficult to rid; ingestion of infected fleas	bitten by infected mosquito	us. by contact with other dogs (kennels, pet shops); licking feet or contaminated dishes	us. by contact with other dogs (kennels, pet shops); licking feet or contaminated dishes	infection of hair, toenails or skin by fungi; often confused for mange or other skin conditions
Symptoms/signs	lethargy, poor appetite, apparent weakness, black/tarry poss. bloody stool, anemia, dehydration	many show no signs; chronic diarrhea, bloody stool, weight loss; poor nutrition; sometimes vomiting; severe bowel inflammation	potbelly, diarrhea, vomiting, rough coat, poor growth	symptoms often vague: unthrifty and loss of weight; usually worm segments seen moving in fresh stool, bedding or base of tail	blood test usually detects chemically; embryos usually visible under microscope; advanced stages: coughing quick to fatigue, labored breathing, weight loss	stool sample detects; younger dogs: diarrhea, wt. loss, poor appetite; mature dogs often no symptoms	stool sample detects; often no signs, esp. in adults	UV light or microscope insp of scrapings; circular hairloss pattern; scaly patches, irregular hair loss, crusts and oozing/deformed toenails
Location/size	small intestine; very small (1/2" L X 1/30" dia.-seldom seen in stool)	mature in lg. intestine; 1.5 to 2.75" L, no thicker than a needle	intestine to liver/lungs then back to intestine to mature; 3-4" or longer	intestine- long/flat/ribbon-like, segmented. Egg filled segments appear in stool	right ventricle and pulmonary artery; round, slender 3-16" L and < 1/8" dia.	protozoal (one celled) microorganisms	protozoal (one celled) microorganisms	fungi spores affect dogs < 1 year more commonly; spores can survive 4 yrs even in dry conditions
Intermediate host or direct life cycle	direct life cycle	direct	direct	intermediate: flea	intermediate: mosquito	direct	direct	

Note: other rare internal parasites/worms include: kidney, bladder, lung and skin. Puppies are most at risk with any intestinal worm infections.

Compiled by Ingot Golden Retrievers. © 2000 Ingot Golden Retrievers.