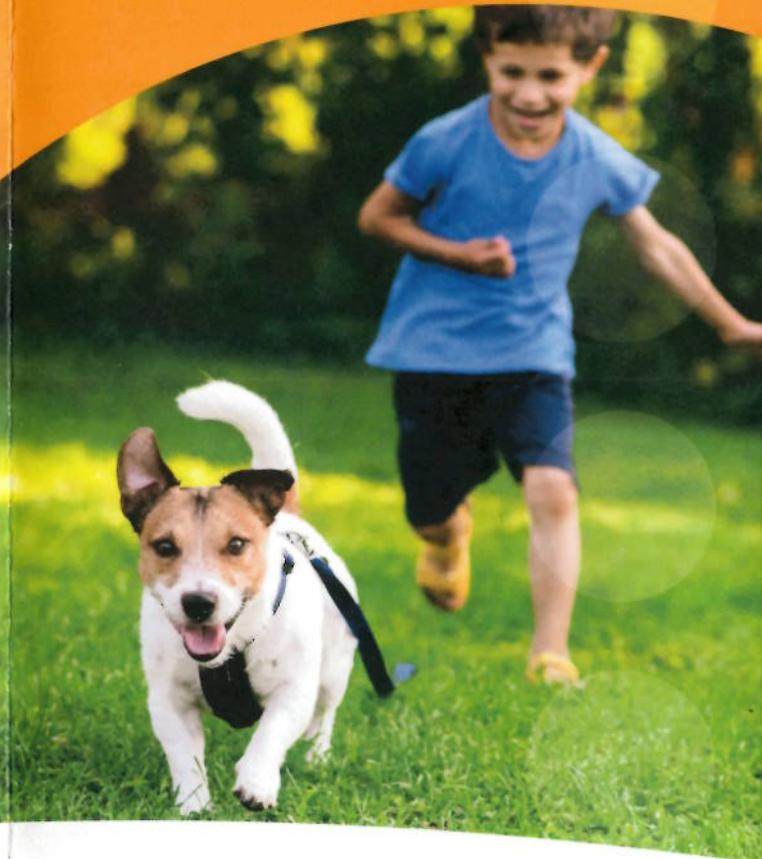


Parasites:

How to help protect
your dog and family

Learn more about parasites at
pethealthnetwork.com



PetHealthNetwork

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What are parasites and why do they matter?

Parasites are organisms that survive by feeding on animals and people.

They can also spread diseases that can threaten the health of your dog and family.

Exposure to infection is possible wherever dogs, ticks and mosquitoes are found.

Prevention may not be 100% effective.

It's important to have your dog tested at least once a year.

Review the enclosed guide to understand parasitic diseases in dogs.



Tips to help protect your dog and family

Pick up and dispose of your dog's stool regularly.

Wash your hands after exposure to your dog's stool, soil (gardening) and sandboxes.

Cover sandboxes and play areas to prevent wildlife and strays from contaminating these areas.

Remind children not to put dirt in their mouths.

Check your dog and your family for ticks regularly. If you find a tick, remove it right away.

Have your dog tested at least once a year.

Your guide to understanding parasitic diseases in dogs

Causes of infection



Worms can cause infection when dogs are exposed to contaminated soil or stool that contains eggs or worm larvae. Infection may also spread from mother to puppies.



Infected mosquitoes spread worm larvae from infected dogs to your dog.



Infected ticks carry bacteria and bite your dog, spreading infection. Ticks spread many diseases.

Parasitic diseases

Most common signs of infection

Disease progression if not treated

- Hookworm
- Roundworm
- Whipworm

- Diarrhea
- Loose stool or blood in stool
- Pale gums
- Poor hair quality
- Poor health
- Pot-bellied appearance
- Vomiting
- Or may not show any signs

- Failure to grow/thrive
- Severe anemia
- Weight loss

- Heartworm

- Mild cough
- Reduced appetite
- Reluctance to move or exercise
- Weight loss

- Heart failure
- Lung disease
- Death

- Lyme disease
- Ehrlichiosis
- Anaplasmosis

- Bloody nose
- Fever
- Lack of energy
- Lameness
- Loss of appetite
- Painful joints
- Pale gums
- Or may not show any signs

- Autoimmune diseases
- Bleeding complications
- Chronic joint pain
- Damaged joints
- Death
- Kidney disease
- Low platelet count
- Low white blood cell count

IMPORTANT: Prevention may not be 100% effective. Test your dog at least once a year.



Ask your veterinarian about:



Fecal antigen testing. This type of testing finds intestinal parasite infections that other types of testing may miss.



Blood tests, including a comprehensive vector-borne disease screen. Testing your dog's blood reveals diseases spread by ticks and mosquitoes.



Effective treatments and prevention. Your veterinarian will recommend the best approach for your dog.

Schedule your pet's next routine wellness exam today



Diagnostics	Treatment	Prevention
Stool sample and tests, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fecal antigen testing • Fecal flotation 	Deworming medication and monthly preventives	Monthly parasite control products (available from your veterinarian), often included in your monthly heartworm preventives Also remember to pick up your dog's stool regularly
Blood tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive vector-borne diseases screen • Chemistry profile • Complete blood count 	Your veterinarian will advise the best treatment	Oral, topical and injectable heartworm preventives
A urine test Other (depending on initial findings and clinical signs)	Antibiotics recommended by your veterinarian	Tick removal and use of tick preventives and Lyme vaccines

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