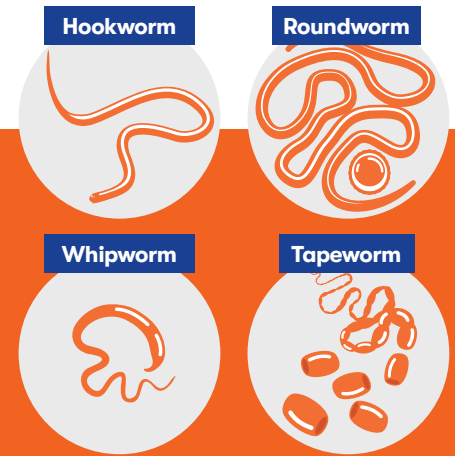


Hookworms

Hookworms are a common and contagious intestinal parasite.

Hookworms, most commonly seen in dogs, infect pets when they ingest their eggs or pick up larvae from contaminated areas. Hookworms then attach to the lining of the small intestine and suck significant amounts of blood from their host. New eggs are passed out again through contaminated stool.



- ▶ All dogs should receive a monthly heartworm preventive that includes protection against intestinal worms.

What does it look like?

Signs include:

- Diarrhea or black, tarry stools
 - Weight loss
 - Dull, dry coat
 - Slow growth (for puppies)
 - Dehydration
 - Anemia (indicated by pale mucous membranes)
- ▶ In puppies and compromised dogs, blood loss from hookworms can cause sudden collapse or even death. Stronger adult dogs may suffer a slow, progressive wasting disease.



How is it diagnosed?

- Microscopic fecal examination for parasite eggs
- ▶ Humans can also get hookworm, typically through larvae penetrating the soles of their feet.

How is it treated?

Prescription deworming medications help to eliminate hookworms from your pet's body. Pets with significant blood loss or dehydration may require hospitalization, fluid therapy, additional medications, or blood transfusions to recover.

- ▶ All puppies should receive deworming treatments to eliminate possible intestinal parasites passed from their mother.



How to help your pet

- Treat your pet promptly to avoid infecting other pets and people
 - Give your pet a monthly heartworm preventive that includes protection against intestinal worms
 - Administer all medications as prescribed by your veterinary team
 - Remove feces promptly to avoid spreading the disease
 - Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- ▶ Schedule an exam two to four weeks after treatment. Only your vet can confirm that your pet's hookworm infestation has been resolved.

