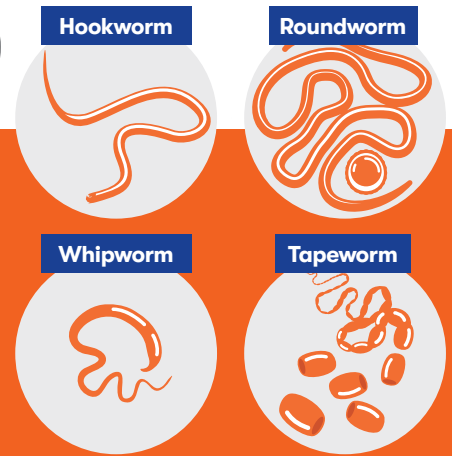


Roundworms (ascarids)

Roundworms are a common intestinal parasite.

Roundworm infestations are very common. They are almost impossible to eradicate completely, as most adult cats and dogs carry dormant worms in their systems (and expectant mothers often pass them to their young). When a pet ingests roundworm eggs in contaminated food, soil, or prey, mature worms attach to the small intestine and steal nutrients 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
- Mucus or blood in the stool
- Vomiting
- Visible worms in feces or vomit
- Weight loss
- Dull, dry coat
- Abdominal distension



- ▶ Infected pets may still have normal bowel movements, and show no obvious signs.



How is it diagnosed?

- Microscopic fecal examination for parasite eggs
- ▶ Humans also get roundworms, which can cause significant health problems.

How is it treated?

Prescription deworming medications can decrease the number of parasites in your pet's body. Since roundworm infections are so common, regular deworming is typically recommended even if your pet's fecal exam is negative.

- Treatment requires at least two doses spaced 10 to 21 days apart, with a follow-up appointment to see if more treatment is needed



How to help your pet

- Give your pet a monthly heartworm preventive that includes protection against intestinal worms
- Administer all medications and treatments as directed
- Remove feces promptly to avoid spreading the disease
- Schedule an appointment to confirm the parasite has been eliminated
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions

