

**Common Canine Parasites**

Name of Parasite	Symptoms	Prevention	Treatment	Extra Information
<p><i>Ear Mites</i> Regular ear cleaning can alert you to a problem early on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Head shaking</li> <li>-Excessive ear scratching</li> <li>-Ear canal bleeding (Severe cases)</li> <li>-Reddish-brown to black discharge in the ears that resemble coffee grounds</li> <li>-Sometimes there seem to be no observable signs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A diagnosis of ear mites by the veterinarian is usually made by one of the following methods:</li> <li>* Direct visualization of the mites with an otoscope</li> <li>* Microscopic examination of the ear discharge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Various commercial ear preparations are available to kill the mites. These products contain an insecticide, usually pyrethrin (products without an insecticide will not kill the mites)</li> <li>-Ears may need to be treated two to four weeks</li> <li>-Easily transferred between pets, all pets in the household should receive simultaneous treatment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Extremely contagious</li> <li>-If left untreated, ear canals and eardrum can become severely damaged and can lead to permanent hearing loss</li> <li>-Many ear mites live all over the body, including the feet and tail so these areas should also be treated (most products designed for fleas and ticks such as sprays, dips, and shampoos, will be effective)</li> <li>-Be sure to treat the tail</li> <li>-Treatment of the house and yard is usually not necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Fleas</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Scratching</li> <li>-Biting</li> <li>-Licking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use monthly preventative</li> <li>-Vacuum frequently</li> <li>-Wash all bedding and toys on a regular basis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Shampoo/Dip</li> <li>-Use flea comb to remove eggs and adult fleas</li> <li>-Use monthly preventative to prevent reinfestation</li> <li>-Capstar kills fleas within 24 hours</li> <li>-Clean/ bomb entire house</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-More is NOT better when it comes to chemicals or medications! Follow package directions when using over the counter products and medications.</li> <li>-Watch for adverse reactions (some topical treatments have been known to cause problems)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Giardia</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Very hard to diagnose</li> <li>-Lack of energy</li> <li>-Weight loss in spite of a healthy appetite</li> <li>-Occasional to severe vomiting, and/or recurring diarrhea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Keep yard clear from feces</li> <li>-Don't allow dog near areas where many dog's go to the bathroom and don't pick up (common outside apartment buildings)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Vet diagnoses the infection by looking for microscopic Giardia cysts in fresh stool samples</li> <li>-Often necessary to examine several samples before finding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-People can catch this from their dog!</li> <li>-Can contract this disease by drinking out of a stream or other contaminated water; licking paws after walking</li> </ul>

	<p>-Diarrhea and other clinical signs may get worse or disappear. -May cause damage without revealing symptoms in the early stages</p>	<p>- Don't allow dog to drink from standing pools of water -Clean dogs feet after walking outside</p>	<p>(they are shed on an irregular basis) -Blood test are often necessary to determine the cause of the illness -Medicate all infected pets in the household with a drug which kills Giardia -Clean your yard of all feces daily during the treatment period and regularly after that -When finished giving the medication, bring a fecal sample to vet for microscopic examination -Usually necessary to repeat this examination a week later and then a month later to determine whether further medication will be needed</p>	<p>over ground or concrete infected with Giardia cysts: or though direct contact with an infected animal -Lives in the cells lining the beginning of the small intestine(it kills these cells and severely damages the bowels) -Can prevent the absorption of essential nutrients and vitamins -Malnutrition can endanger your pet's health as well as diminished resistance allows other diseases to attack</p>
<p><i>Heartworms</i> Checked twice a year at vet</p>	<p><i>Acute disease</i> - usually no clinical signs (the dog just acquired the disease) <i>Mild to moderate</i> - cough, reluctance/inability to exercise, decreased appetite <i>Severe</i> - marked shortness of breath, coughing, fainting episodes, weight loss, fever, abdominal swelling, death</p>	<p>-Vet must first test your pet and find the heartworm status to be negative -Prevention is in the form of a chewable daily or monthly tablet, given in the summer months or year round, depending on the climate where you live -The most commonly prescribed oral heartworm preventatives are: Heartgard®, Interceptor®, and Program®.</p>	<p>-Diagnosis is most commonly done by a blood test in your Veterinarian's office (x-ray, ultrasounds, or other tests may be performed) -Treatment not without some risk. - Bloods tests are used to assess kidney and liver function before initiating treatment -The worms are killed slowly, so as not to cause a sudden blockage in the heart or lungs, and the patient must be kept quiet</p>	<p>-Live in the right side of the heart and in the large blood vessels that connect the heart with the lungs, obstructing the blood vessels and chambers -Dogs with severe infestations can be home to several hundred heartworms -The liver can also become damaged -On rare occasions, heartworms can cause the dog to die of sudden heart failure</p>

			-Medication kills the remaining microfilariae	
<i>Hookworm</i> Checked twice a year at vet	-If left untreated, this will lead to severe diarrhea, hemorrhaging, shock, and death -Nonspecific, dark, black (tarry), or bloody diarrhea -Vomiting -Poor or no appetite -Pale mucous membranes in the mouth and generalized pallor -Weakness, emaciation and poor growth - Severe anemia	-Keep dog off beaches, in garden, in sandboxes, or in other warm, sandy, moist areas - Have vet check for intestinal worms twice a year	-Oral or injected medications that destroy the adults -These medications are unable to kill the larvae, so they will have to be taken again in two to four weeks to kill the larvae that have become adult hookworms -In some cases, your dog may even need to have a blood transfusion	-Can be ingested or enter through intact skin -Attaches to the small intestine -The females can lay up to 20,000 eggs each day, so it's extremely important to have your dog treated if you spot symptoms of an infestation -They can live weeks without food independent of a host -Puppies can be born with them
<i>Lice</i> Visual scan of dog if seen scratching	-Can be seen with the naked eye -Dry, scruffy coat of hair -Hair loss and severe itching.		-Bathe your dog in pyrethrin shampoo. -After drying, apply a pyrethrin spray or powder -Repeat this process in two weeks (not all will be killed after the first session)	-Highly contagious (can only infect your dog if he comes into direct contact with another infected dog) -Suck blood or chew on the skin of your dog
<i>Roundworms</i>	-Diarrhea -Vomiting (you may see the worms in the vomit) -"Pot belly" appearance -Weight loss Very heavy infections can lead to pneumonia - if there are enough worms, the intestine can actually become obstructed.	-Regular deworming especially if your dog likes to hunt -Prompt disposal of all dog feces from yard and dog parks	-Vet checks feces or vomit for worms (may take several checkings) -Dewormer	- Infected by consuming worm eggs from soil in the environment (generally through normal grooming), nursing from an infected mother dog or during embryonic development, or consuming a prey animal (usually rodent) that is carrying developing worms
<i>Tapeworm</i> Check feces on a regular	-Most infestations go unnoticed. -Sometimes find segments on	-Prevent and get rid of fleas	-Most over-the-counter wormers won't affect a	-Tapeworms don't lay eggs inside the pet and for that

basis	<p>the couch, see them in the feces, or find them in the hair around the anus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Can hear a "rumbly tummy syndrome" where the animal undergoes increased intestinal motility, cramping and sometimes gas</li> <li>-Diarrhea streaked with mucous</li> </ul>		<p>tapeworm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Current medication causes the tapeworm to lose their protective layer and they are simply digested (don't bother looking for remains)</li> </ul>	<p>reason, when veterinarians perform fecal flotations looking for parasite eggs, tapeworms are often overlooked</p>
<p><i>Ticks</i></p> <p>Check anytime the dog goes into an area known for ticks (woods, high grasses, etc) and when your dog has been around other dogs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Check your pet daily for ticks by thoroughly feeling for any lumps under the hair. Pay close attention to ears, around face, eyes, legs, and belly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use spray, powder, spot-on, or a collar to prevent infestations</li> <li>-Check dog daily after outings into wooded or grassy areas, especially in the Spring</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use latex exam gloves to examine your pet for ticks. Examine using good lighting.</li> <li>2. When tick is found embedded in the skin, use a fine pointed tweezers at the point of attachment, and grasp firmly. Using slow, steady, and firm traction, pull the tick straight out from the skin.</li> <li>3. Cleanse the skin with mild soap and water.</li> <li>4. If part of the tick breaks off, you can try to remove it as you would a splinter, but it is probably best to leave it alone. The body will 'eject' it in time.</li> <li>5. Place the tick in a jar of alcohol, noting the date, in case of future illness. Tick identification and location of tick infestation will be important.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Do NOT use a match or caustic materials to try to smother the tick or get the tick to 'back out'. This doesn't work, and may be causing the tick to regurgitate more saliva (and potential pathogens) into the skin</li> <li>-Ticks will range in size from the size of a sesame seed to the size of a fingernail (engorged)</li> </ul>
<i>Whipworm</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Often no symptoms</li> <li>-Infrequent, nonspecific, or blood-streaked diarrhea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Keep things clean</li> <li>-Don't allow your dog to eat or chew on things that other dogs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fecal flotation may miss an infestation due to irregular releasing of eggs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The dog must eat the eggs to get infected (either by licking paws or eating something)</li> </ul>

	<p>-Weight loss. -When the Whipworm buries its head in the intestine wall it causes a tremendous inflammatory reaction. The inflamed intestinal wall gets red, erroded and prone to invasion by bacteria.</p>	<p>have already interacted with -After infestation, replace all old toys , bones, and other items that the dog likes to chew on. If your dog is kenneled or tied out, it needs to be moved to new ground to get away from the eggs. -If unable to move the pen, administer a low level wormer everyday to prevent reinfestation.</p>	<p>-Use any effective oral wormer, but avoid most over-the-counter wormers as they won't work</p>	<p>infected) -The shell of the larvae is so tough that the eggs can live in the soil for years (they resist freezing but are susceptible to drying and sunlight</p>
--	---	--	---	---