

# Internal Parasites – Dogs and Puppies



**Internal parasites** are a very common problem among **dogs**. Almost all **puppies** are already infected with roundworm when still in the uterus, or get the infection immediately after birth, through their mother's milk (roundworm, hookworm). Moreover, **dogs** of all ages are continuously exposed to potentially harmful parasites through mosquito bites, which can transmit heartworm infection, or through soil contaminated by infective parasite eggs or larvae in the backyard and parks. Though some of these parasites are very dangerous, they can be easily controlled and prevented.

## Why Parasites are a Problem

Being life-threatening, heartworms are among the most dangerous parasites, but hookworms, roundworms, whipworms and tapeworms can also seriously affect a **dog's** health and well-being.

## How to Examine Your Pet

Only a veterinarian can examine your pet for parasites. Almost all **puppies** have parasites, so it is essential to have any **puppy** checked and to maintain ongoing prevention. Detection is done through a microscopic examination of the feces and should be repeated on a yearly basis.

## Treating and Preventing Internal Parasites

Since many **puppies** are already infected at birth or immediately after birth, and are continuously re-infected through their mother's milk or through the environment, it is important to initiate the de-worming treatment once the puppies are old enough. Mothers of infected pups should be treated concurrently. This will prevent puppies to develop the disease and to shed parasite eggs through the feces, thus avoiding environmental contamination.

Because of the prevalence of parasites and the ease of transmission, adult dogs should be placed on a monthly parasite preventative throughout their lives.

