

# INTESTINAL WORMS IN DOGS

## What Every Dog Owner Should Know

Intestinal worms are common parasites that live in a dog's digestive tract. Puppies are particularly vulnerable, but dogs of any age can be affected. Left untreated, worms can cause illness, poor growth, weight loss, and in severe cases, life-threatening complications.

*Routine worming and good hygiene help keep your dog healthy and your family protected.*

SOME  
INTESTINAL  
WORMS CAN  
AFFECT PEOPLE.  
REGULAR WORMING  
HELPS PROTECT  
THE WHOLE  
FAMILY.



## 1 WHAT ARE INTESTINAL WORMS?

Intestinal worms are parasites that live within the digestive system.

Common worms affecting dogs include:

- ✓ Roundworms
- ✓ Hookworms
- ✓ Whipworms
- ✓ Tapeworms

These parasites feed on nutrients from your dog and can affect overall health and wellbeing.



## 2 DID YOU KNOW?

- Many puppies are born with roundworms or become infected through their mother's milk.
- Some intestinal worms can also infect people, particularly young children.
- Regular worming is one of the simplest ways to protect your pet and family.



## 2 SIGNS OF WORMS

Dogs may show:

- ✓ Diarrhoea
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Weight loss
- ✓ Pot-bellied appearance
- ✓ Poor growth in puppies
- ✓ Dull coat
- ✓ Scooting
- ✓ Worms visible in faeces or vomit
- ✓ Lethargy
- ✓ Poor appetite

**Some infected dogs show no obvious signs.**



## 3 COMMON TYPES OF WORMS

### ROUNDWORMS

Most common in puppies.



Can cause:

- Pot belly
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Poor growth

### HOOKWORMS

Attach to the intestinal wall and feed on blood.



Can cause:

- Anaemia
- Weakness
- Weight loss
- Dark faeces

### WHIPWORMS

Live in the large intestine.



Can cause:

- Chronic diarrhoea
- Weight loss
- Poor condition

### TAPEWORMS

Often spread through fleas.



Can cause:

- Scooting
- Anal irritation
- Visible worm segments

## 4 HOW DO DOGS GET WORMS?

Dogs can become infected through:

- ✓ Contaminated soil
- ✓ Eating infected prey
- ✓ Flea infestations
- ✓ Contact with infected faeces
- ✓ From their mother before birth
- ✓ Through nursing
- ✓ Contaminated environments

*Working, hunting, and outdoor dogs may have increased exposure.*



## 5 HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may:

- ✓ Perform a physical examination
- ✓ Assess clinical signs
- ✓ Recommend faecal testing
- ✓ Identify worm eggs under a microscope
- ✓ Discuss your dog's lifestyle and parasite risks

*A faecal test is the best way to identify which worms are present.*



## 6 TREATMENT

Treatment may include:

- ✓ Oral worming medications
- ✓ Broad-spectrum parasite control products
- ✓ Repeat treatments as required
- ✓ Flea control for tapeworm prevention
- ✓ Follow-up faecal testing

*Always use products specifically recommended for dogs.*



## 7 PREVENTION

You can reduce the risk by:

- ✓ Following a regular worming schedule
- ✓ Picking up faeces promptly
- ✓ Practising good hygiene
- ✓ Controlling fleas year-round
- ✓ Preventing scavenging and hunting
- ✓ Routine veterinary health checks
- ✓ Regular parasite prevention programs



## 8 PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

Some worms can infect people.

Good hygiene includes:

- ✓ Washing hands after handling pets
- ✓ Cleaning up faeces promptly
- ✓ Preventing children from contact with contaminated soil
- ✓ Regular parasite prevention
- ✓ Routine veterinary care

*Healthy pets help support healthy families.*



## ★ ADDITIONAL TIPS



Puppies require more frequent worming than adults.



Flea control is essential for tapeworm prevention.



Some dogs carry worms without showing signs.



Regular faecal testing helps identify hidden infections.

## ♥ EVERY DOG COUNTS

If your dog develops diarrhoea, vomiting, weight loss, or you notice worms in the faeces, arrange a veterinary examination.

*Routine worming, parasite prevention, and regular health checks provide the best protection against intestinal worms.*



(02) 6852 1775



62 Templar Street,  
Forbes NSW 2871



forbesvet.com.au



Forbes Veterinary Clinic