



勝利動物醫院
Victory Animal Hospital

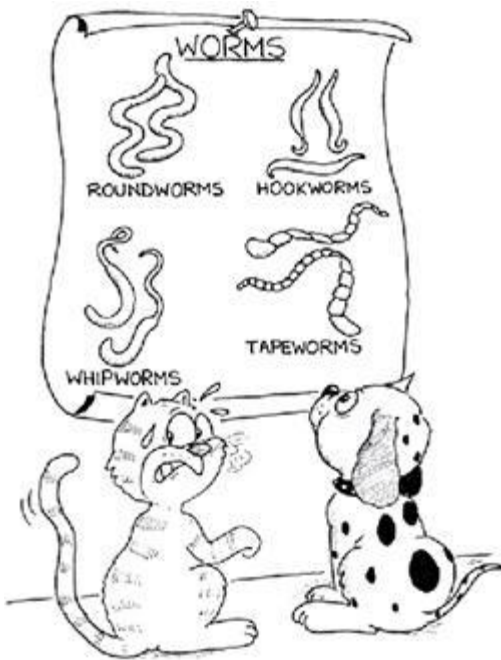
Victory Animal Hospital

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Roundworm Infection in Dogs



Roundworms (*nematodes* or *ascarids*) are parasites that live freely in the intestine, feeding off of partially digested intestinal contents. Their name is derived from their tubular or "round" shape.

Toxocara canis and *Toxascaris leonina* are two important species of roundworms in dogs. *Toxocara canis* causes more significant disease and also may be transmitted to humans.

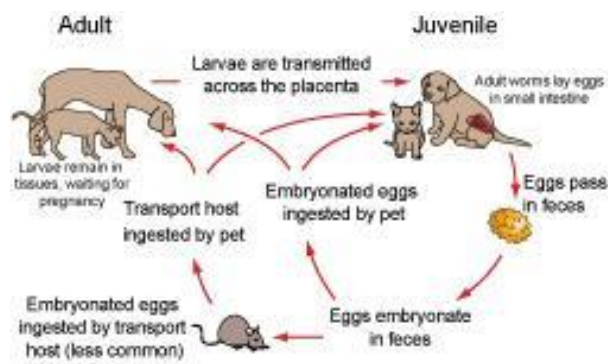
How did my dog get roundworms?

Infected dogs shed the microscopic roundworm eggs in their feces. Other dogs may become infected by sniffing or licking infected feces. Roundworm eggs can also be spread by other animals such as rodents, earthworms, roaches and birds. If a dog eats this host, the roundworm is liberated and completes its maturation.

Are roundworms a threat to my dog?

"The most common consequence of roundworms is growth reduction."

Roundworms are most threatening to puppies. The most common consequence of roundworms is growth reduction. Since roundworms eat partially digested food in the intestinal tract, if there is a large burden of roundworms they will rob the growing puppy of vital nutrients.



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How are roundworms diagnosed?

"In puppies, clinical signs such as stunted growth, potbelly, and recurrent diarrhea are a good indication of roundworm infection."

In puppies, clinical signs such as stunted growth, potbelly, and recurrent diarrhea are a good indication of roundworm infection. Definitive diagnosis is made by microscopic examination of the dog's feces.

Is it true that children can get roundworm infections?

If the infective eggs of *Toxocara canis* are swallowed by people, the larvae can invade the tissues and become encysted in various organs. Humans act like any other host. If a young child ingests a large number of infected eggs, clinical disease may become apparent.

Very rarely, liver problems may result from roundworm larval migration (visceral larval migrans). Even less commonly, the larvae can migrate into the eye and cause blindness (ocular larval migrans).

How are roundworms treated?

Treatment is simple and effective. There are many safe and effective preparations available to kill adult roundworms in the intestine.

Many heartworm preventives contain medications that are effective against intestinal roundworms help prevent future infections. Some of these preparations only the adult worms and do not affect migrating or encysting larvae. New products have recently been developed that will also affect the larval stages. Your veterinarian will advise you on the best treatment and prevention plan for your pet.

What is the most effective strategy I can use to control infection in my dogs, protect my family and reduce contamination of the environment?

Deworm pregnant dogs in late pregnancy, after the 42nd day or after six weeks of pregnancy. This will help reduce potential contamination of the environment for newborn puppies.

All puppies should be dewormed routinely, starting at about two weeks of age and repeated regularly. Your veterinarian will design the most appropriate deworming schedule for your pets.

The use of a heartworm preventative product that is effective against roundworms will stop the shedding of eggs into the environment.

Rodent control is important since rodents can serve as a source of infection.

Dogs should be prevented from defecating in children's play areas and there should be prompt disposal of all dog feces, especially in gardens, playgrounds and public parks.

"Practice strict hygiene particularly with children."

This client information sheet is based on material written by: Ernest Ward, DVM
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