

Worming Schedule

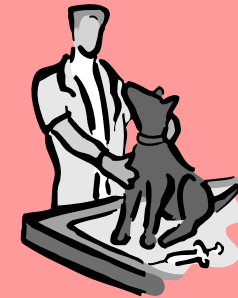
Your Puppy will be first wormed at 2-3 weeks of age and every 2 weeks after that until the pup is 8 weeks old.

If your dog will be running around grassy fields, in the woods or going to be around other dogs, it is a good idea to worm your puppy regularly.

Please consult your Veterinarian for his/her advice.

Different Types of Worms that may affect your dog.

"Once You Go Dane, Your Life Is Never The Same"



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If You Ever Have Any Questions, Please Don't Hesitate To Ask.

Roundworms

A large percentage of puppies and kittens are born with microscopically small roundworm larvae in their tissues. The larvae got there via migration through the mother's tissues right into the developing pup or kitten in the mother's uterus! The worm larvae can also be transferred to the nursing pup or kitten from the mother's milk. The larvae make their way to the intestinal tract where they can grow up to five inches in length. They start shedding eggs and try desperately to keep house in the small intestine of the pup or kitten. The eggs that the adult worms pass in the stool can now re-infest the same pup or kitten or other dogs and cats if somehow the egg-bearing stool is eaten. When the worm eggs hatch, larvae are released internally to migrate to the animal's lungs where the larvae (remember, the larvae are microscopic in size) are finally coughed up, swallowed, and finally grow up to adults in the small intestine. So you can see that repeated exposures to egg-bearing stool or stool-contaminated soil can cause additive numbers of parasites to a dog or cat's load. Not good! Roundworms are active in the intestines of puppies and kittens, often causing a pot-bellied appearance and poor growth. The worms may be seen in vomit or stool; a severe infestation can cause death by intestinal blockage. Females can produce 200 thousand eggs in a day; eggs are protected by a hard shell and can exist in the soil for years.

Roundworms can infest adult dogs and cats, too. However, as mentioned above, the larvae can encyst in body tissue of adult dogs and cats, remain dormant for periods of time, and can activate during the last stages of pregnancy to infest the puppies and kittens. Worming the mother has no effect on the encysted larvae in the body tissues and cannot prevent the worms from infecting the newborn. Almost all wormers work only on the adult parasites IN THE INTESTINAL TRACT.

Hookworms

These are much more common in dogs than in cats. They are very small, thin worms

that fasten to the wall of the small intestine and suck blood. Dogs get hookworms from larval migration in the uterus, from contact with the larvae in stool-contaminated soil, or from ingesting the eggs after birth. As with roundworms, the hookworm larvae can also be transferred to the nursing pup from the mother's milk.

A severe hookworm infestation can kill puppies, often making them severely anemic from the loss of blood to the hookworms' vampire-like activities! Chronic hookworm infestation is a common cause of older dogs not performing optimally, having poor feed efficiency and weight maintenance, and having poor stamina. Often the signs include bloody diarrhea, weight loss, anemia, and progressive weakness. Examining the feces for eggs under a microscope makes diagnosis.

Whipworms

This parasite is more often seen in dogs than cats. Adult whipworms, although seldom seen in the stool, look like tiny pieces of

thread with one end enlarged. They live in the cecum, the first section of the dog's large intestine. Infestations are usually difficult to prove since the whipworms shed comparatively few eggs; so an examination of even several stool samples may not reveal the presence of whipworms. If a dog is presented with chronic weight loss and passes stool that seems to have a covering of mucous (especially the last portion of stool the dog passes), and lives in a kennel situation or an area where whipworms are prevalent, the veterinarian may prescribe a whipworm medication based upon circumstantial evidence. Repeat worming may be necessary especially if there is a probability that the dog will become re-infested. Although they seldom cause a dog's death, whipworms are a real nuisance for the dog and can be a problem for the veterinarian to diagnose.

Tapeworms

Another intestinal parasite, the tapeworm, is transmitted to dogs and cats that ingest fleas (fleas think tapeworm eggs are real tasty!) or that hunt and eat wildlife or rodents infested with tapeworms or fleas. If you were to see an entire tapeworm you would notice that they are arranged with a small head at one end and many tiny brick-like repeating segments making up the rest of the worm. There are generally two types that infest dogs and cats; tapeworms can reach 4 to 6 inches in length within the intestine. It is the last segments in the chain that are released from the worm that can be seen in the dog or cats' stool. An entire tapeworm may have 90 segments! Many cases are diagnosed simply by seeing these tiny terminal segments attached to the

pet's fur around the anus or under the tail; they even move around a bit shortly after they are passed and before they dry up and look like little grains of rice or confetti. These segments of the tapeworm contain the eggs. The typical generic, over-the-counter wormers cannot kill tapeworms; see the veterinarian for prescription-only treatment that really works. Don't waste your time or money on non-prescription tape worm medications... they don't work very well.