

Parasite management in dogs



What your dog is up against

INTERNAL PARASITES

Dogs can contract internal parasites from a variety of situations, but they are typically transmitted when an animal unintentionally ingests parasite eggs in contaminated soil, water, food or feces.

Heartworms

One bite from an infected mosquito can lead to an unprotected dog developing heartworm disease, by far one of the most preventable and potentially deadly infections.



Tapeworms

There are several types of tapeworm, but the most common is caused by swallowing an infected flea. They typically set up shop in your dog's small intestine, where they continue to feed and grow. Tapeworms compromise your pet's nutrition and can contribute to weight loss, lethargy and a variety of other issues.



Hookworms

These nasty intestinal parasites can be ingested by sniffing or eating contaminated soil or feces. Hookworms literally hook themselves into the lining of your dog's intestines and leave holes in their wake, potentially leading to anemia, weakness, weight loss and death.



ECTOPARASITES

These are perhaps some of the most well-known insects associated with dogs. These pests prefer to live on or just under the surface of your dog's skin and can easily be picked up on outdoor adventures and introduced to your home.

Fleas

Dogs typically get fleas from other animals. Fleas are notoriously challenging to see with the naked eye, but their bites can cause severe irritation and inflammation. Your dog will undoubtedly be scratching and biting at their skin almost incessantly if infected.



Ticks

Ticks can easily be picked up in tall grass and wooded areas. More than just disgusting bloodsuckers, infected ticks can transmit Lyme disease, a serious bacterial illness that can also be passed on to humans.



Mites

Just as with people, mites exist naturally on dogs, but if found in excessive quantities, they can cause serious skin problems. Ear mites are another common concern. They are highly contagious and are typically passed from outdoor cats to canines, though humans are generally immune. Excessive head shaking and scratching at ears/ the head are usually dead giveaways.



Tips to help protect your dog against parasites

- Feed a **chewable heartworm preventative**, year-round, as prescribed by your veterinarian.
- Flea and tick preventatives abound. You may choose from **chewables, collars** and **topicals**.
- **Brush and bathe** your dog regularly.
- Schedule time to regularly **clean up your yard**.
- Always **check your dog's skin** for ticks after spending time in heavily wooded areas.
- Support your dog's immunity and feed a **high-quality diet** containing the **organic trace mineral selenium**, such as **Sel-Plex®** from Alltech.

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