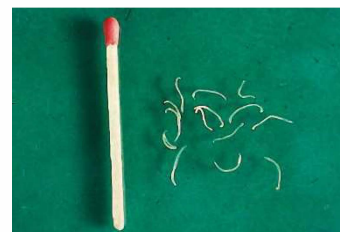


## COMMON PARASITE INFORMATION

**ROUNDWORMS:** are the most common type of intestinal worm. They are 2-4 inches long and resemble strands of spaghetti. They live in the small intestine and may cause vomiting, diarrhea or weight loss. Larval worms also damage the liver and lungs while migrating through these organs on their way to the small intestine. Roundworms are transmitted via stools of other infected dogs or cats, or through the uterus of the mother dog to her unborn pups. Entire worms can sometimes be seen in the stools or vomit of infested animals. Roundworms are the most common intestinal parasite to also infect humans. Roundworm eggs shed in a pet's stools remain viable in the environment for many years, and a single worm can shed thousands of eggs. Prompt treatment and use of monthly preventative medications protect people as well as pets.



**HOOKWORMS:** are half inch-long worms that attach to the lining of the small intestine, causing blood loss and diarrhea. Puppies can become infected through the mother's uterus before birth, or via her milk after birth. Older animals acquire hookworms through skin contact with the stools of other dogs or cats. Hookworm larvae can cause skin disease in humans.



**TAPEWORMS:** live in the small intestine, where the head attaches to the intestinal wall and produces a chain of segments. Mature segments containing eggs are passed with the stool, or may be seen around the rectum. They resemble small grains of rice. They may be acquired by the ingestion of rodents or birds or, most commonly, through the ingestion of fleas. Flea control is essential to control tapeworm infestation.



WHIPWORMS: live in the large intestine. They are not as common as the other intestinal parasites but the disease they cause can be very serious. Bloody diarrhea and weight loss are the symptoms seen. These worms are transmitted by ingestion of the stools of infested animals. Whipworm eggs can survive in the soil for months so infested feces must promptly be removed.



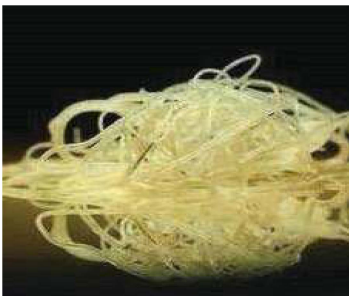
COCCIDIA: are one-celled protozoal parasites, more like bacteria rather than "worms". Puppies and kittens can pick these up from their mother and they can also be acquired by eating rabbit or other wildlife droppings. They are treated with antibiotics.



GIARDIA: are also protozoans or one-celled organisms. They are very difficult to pick up on a regular fecal analysis. Antibiotics or special wormers kill them, but they are difficult to eradicate completely and often flare up with stress or other intestinal problems. They are contagious to humans and cause vomiting and diarrhea in both people and pets.



HEARTWORMS: are a deadly parasite carried by mosquitoes.



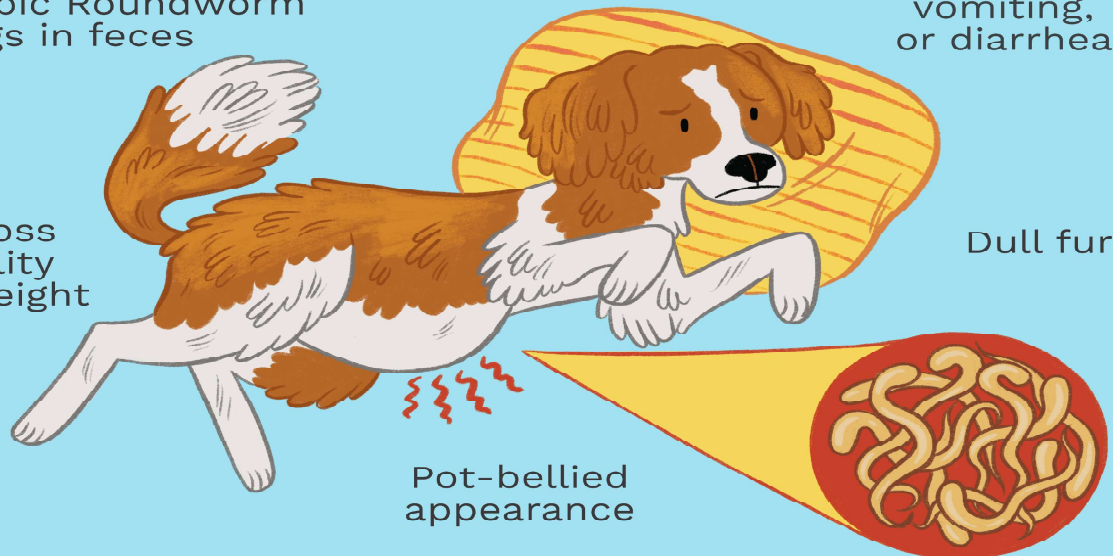
# Signs of Roundworms in Dogs from the spruce

Roundworms and microscopic Roundworm eggs in feces

Coughing, vomiting, or diarrhea

Weight loss or inability to gain weight

Dull fur



Pot-bellied appearance

## Heartworms In Dogs

Heartworms are one of the deadliest types of dog worms because they directly attack the critical organ – ‘heart’. Apart from heart, these worms also lodge themselves on to the lungs.

**HEARTWORMS ATTACK: Heart, Lungs, Arteries of a dog.**

**SIGNS:** Bloating, Inactive, Persistent cough, Appetite loss, and Fatigue.

**Note:** The dog may not show any immediate signs of heartworm infection. It takes months.



## Whipworms In Dogs

Whipworms are more like ticks, meaning they bury their little heads and suck onto a dog’s blood. Whipworms are usually tough and can stay alive for a long time.



**WHIPWORMS ATTACK:** Big intestine

**SYMPTOMS:**

- Watery diarrhea
- Bloody diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Weight loss

**Note:** Whipworms are tough and can stay alive for a long time.

## Tapeworms In Dogs

Tapeworms are generally white, flat in shape, and have ¼-inch segments connected with each other. They easily reach the gut when a dog swallows fleas.

**Tapeworms Attack:**

Intestine. They stick to the intestinal walls and suck all the blood.

**Signs:** White worm pieces in the dog’s feces. Dog constantly bites at his rear or drags his butt on the carpet.



## Roundworms In Dogs

Roundworms are the most common type of worm that affects a dog is roundworms. They are white or light brown and resemble more like spaghetti noodles.

**ROUNDWORMS ATTACK:** Dog’s intestine

**SYMPTOMS IN DOGS:**

- In advanced stage, a dog will have swelled or distended belly.
- Weight Loss and acting lethargic.
- Abnormal stool.
- Coughing

