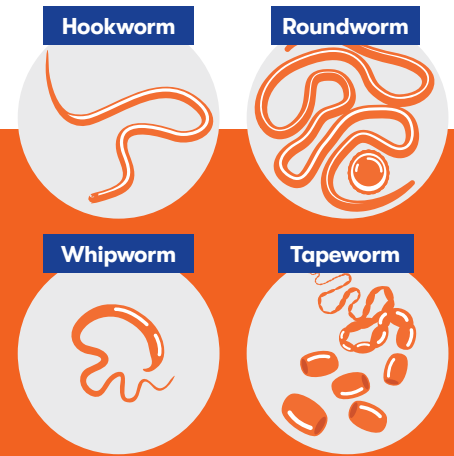


Whipworms

Whipworms are a common intestinal parasite.

Whipworms, most commonly seen in dogs, infect pets when they ingest whipworm eggs from contaminated areas. Whipworms then attach to the lining of the large intestine, where they steal important nutrients from their hosts. New eggs are passed out again through contaminated stool.



- ▶ All dogs should receive a monthly heartworm preventive that includes protection against intestinal worms.

What does it look like?

Signs include:

- Diarrhea
- Mucus or blood in the stool
- Weight loss
- General poor health

- ▶ In puppies and compromised dogs, severe whipworm infections can cause significant blood loss, anemia, dehydration, and even death.



How is it diagnosed?

- Microscopic fecal examination for parasite eggs

How is it treated?

Eliminating whipworms requires a long course (often months) of prescription deworming medication. Pets with significant blood loss or dehydration may require hospitalization, fluid therapy, additional medications, or blood transfusions to recover.

- ▶ Make sure your pet has a fecal examination every year to help catch parasites before real damage is done.



How to help your pet

- Administer all medications and complete all treatments as prescribed
 - Give your pet a monthly heartworm preventive that includes protection against intestinal worms
 - Remove feces promptly to avoid spreading the disease
 - Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- ▶ Schedule a fecal exam after finishing your pet's course of treatment. Only your vet can confirm that your pet's whipworm infestation has been resolved.

