

## Different Types of Dog Worms:

Worms (helminthes) and dog worms in particular are "Internal Parasites". Most canine worms involve the gastrointestinal tract as their primary predilection site, although they can also infest and impact other organs of body in heavy infestations. Some [signs of worms in dogs](#) can be seen with the naked eye, while others such as hookworms and whip worms cannot be seen. Heart worms, which occur primarily in the heart, is called a circulatory worm. Heart worm may infest the respiratory system as well. Most puppies are born with roundworms, no matter where the puppy was purchased. Adult dogs pick up worms from eggs that fell off feces. These eggs can survive on the ground for months. When a dog smells the anus of another dog, they can pick up worm eggs that are ingested and then start to grow as they move through the intestines. Other types of worms such as tapeworms can enter through the skin.



**Round Worms:** [Roundworms in dogs](#) are the most common type of canine worms. These dog worms are also called "ascaridoids" or "ascarids". Two different species, *Toxocara canis* and *Toxocara leonis* can cause "Ascariasis" in dogs. Roundworms are transmitted either by contaminated soil, dust, or by moving through the placental barrier to an unborn pup or even through mother's milk. Most puppies have roundworms. Even if a mother has been dewormed, eggs that are hidden in the body from the "worming" medications can hatch and infect a puppy. Once eggs are swallowed by a dog, they penetrate into the intestinal mucosa. Infections can occur during 2-1/3 to 3 weeks of life. When the worms hatch they become larvae and at last become capable of laying their own eggs. Eggs are then passed into the feces and the worm life cycle continues. Roundworms can cause progressive weight loss, lack of growth, a protruded belly and make the coat appear dull. Diarrhea and vomiting are more common in a severe infestation. The worms may also grow to the point where they obstruct or block the intestine. Symptoms of roundworms in puppies includes soft feces, or even spotting 2 to 4 inch worms in the diarrhea or vomit. Treatment involves a deworming medication.



**Hook Worms:** *Ancylostoma caninum* is the specie of hook worms which infect dogs. Dog Hook worms can range from 12 - 15 mm in length. [Hookworm in dogs](#) may be transmitted through environmental contamination, milk and through skin penetration, especially in puppies. The eggs of dog hook worms can survive in the soil for months. Anemia is the main representation of hook worms in dogs since the hookworms draw blood from the body. Puppies that show signs of anemia due to hook worms usually do not survive with signs starting to appear rapidly during the 2nd week of life. Diarrhea which contains dark blood is a common symptom, which contains dark blood. Other symptoms of dog hood worms include emaciation, weakness. Generalized illness is

persistent in cases of chronic infestation.

**Whip Worms:** Whip worms infest the cecum (large intestine) of dogs, and are long thin worms. *Trichuris vulpis* is the specie of whip worm which causes "Trichuriasis" in dogs. Eggs passed in the feces can survive in a warm environment and may become infective in 2 - 4 weeks time. If ingested while still alive, they move on to the cecum and cause problems for dogs. Dog

Whip worm in heavy infestations can cause dilation of the colon, weight loss and diarrhea. Diarrhea in most cases is mixed with fresh blood, which also results in anemia. Canine anemia is a decline in the red blood cells ability to carry oxygen throughout the body resulting in fatigue and other chronic problems if not treated.



**Tape Worms:** *Dipylidium caninum* is specie of [tape worms](#). It gets its name from its appearance which is flat, segmented and tape like. Each segment varies in length. Every segment of a tape worm can reproduce, and each possesses a digestive and excretory system of its own. These segments may look like specks of rice in the feces and can also be attached to the anus of dogs. Tapeworms can cause restlessness, irritation at the anus, abdominal pain, varying appetite, emaciation and mild diarrhea. The coat may appear shaggy and irregular, even after

regular grooming. Dog tape worms is contracted from fleas, the so the key to prevention is to make sure a dog doesn't have them.

