



INTESTINAL WORMS & INTESTINAL PARASITES in DOGS & CATS

Intestinal Worms (Actual Worms)	Dogs and /or Cats	How Do Pets Get These Intestinal Worms & Parasites ?	Visible To Human Eye ?	Affect on Pet / Clinical Signs	Contagion to Humans ?	Scary Facts
ROUND-WORMS ("Rounds")	Mostly Puppies & Kittens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before birth thru placenta 2. Thru mother's milk (while nursing) 3. Ingesting soil / grass 4. Eating rodents 	YES - Looks like SPAGHETTI (Up to 7 inches long)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pot-bellied 2. Failure to thrive 3. Stunted growth 4. Death (Uncommon) 	Yes - The larva form of the worm (not the worm itself) can be ingested from soil contaminated with the eggs - Can cause blindness in people	Female Roundworms can lay up to 200,000 eggs per day *** The larval form can cause blindness in people
HOOK-WORMS ("Hooks")	Dogs & Pups (Occasionally in Cats)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before birth thru placenta 2. Thru mother's milk (while nursing) 3. Ingesting soil / grass 4. Eating rodents 5. Penetration thru Skin (esp. through the Feet) 	Very Uncommon Due to Very Small Size	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Severe blood loss 2. Severe diarrhea (often with blood) 3. Malnutrition 4. Weight loss 5. Death 	Yes - The larva form of the worm (not the worm itself) can be ingested from soil contaminated with the eggs	Hookworms attach to the intestinal wall of pets with sharp teeth and can suck a large amount of blood and cause death
WHIP-WORMS ("Whips")	Dogs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ingesting larva in the soil / on grass 	Very Uncommon Due to Very Small Size	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Severe diarrhea (often with blood) 2. Severe blood loss 3. Malnutrition 4. Weight loss 	No - Humans cannot get the form of Whipworms that we find in Dogs	Eggs from Whipworms can remain infective in the environment for up to 5 years !
TAPE-WORMS ("Tapes")	Dogs & Cats Pups & Kittens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Dipylidium</u> - From Ingesting Fleas (Can grow up to 8" long) 2. <u>Taenia</u> - From Eating Small Mammals (Can grow up to <u>3 feet</u> long) 	YES - Looks like Grains of RICE (Consist of Dozens of the Rice-like segments attached)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failure to thrive 2. Intestinal blockage (puppies) 	No - Humans cannot get Tape-worms from their pets, but can get them from swallowing a flea or from eating poorly cooked wild meat (rabbit, squirrel, etc)	We rarely find Tape-worms on a Fecal sample since they do not lay eggs in the intestinal tract — We often rely on owners to see them
Intestinal Parasites (One-Cell Organisms)	Dogs and /or Cats	How Do Pets Get These Intestinal Worms & Parasites ?	Visible To Human Eye ?	Affect on Pet / Clinical Signs	Contagion to Humans ?	Scary Facts
COCCIDIA	Mostly Kittens , but often Puppies , too	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ingesting soil / grass 2. Contaminated environment 	No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Severe diarrhea 2. Dehydration 3. Abdominal distress 4. Vomiting 	No	A lesser type of Coccidia known as Cryptosporidium has been known to affect municipal water supplies
GIARDIA	Dogs & Cats Pups & Kittens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consuming cysts from drinking contaminated water 2. Eating cysts from contaminated soil 	No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diarrhea (usually with lots of mucus) 2. Abdominal distress 3. Weight loss 	Most commonly, people get Giardia from contaminated water (drinking from a stream or pond; even municipal water supplies)	Giardia can be spread in swimming pools if someone with Giardia has diarrhea in the pool