

Good worming advice

The exact degree of risk to your dog and all of his or her human friends varies depending on certain lifestyle factors. The staff at your veterinary practice are trained to assess your pet's individual situation and advise you on an appropriate worming programme.

Here are some guidelines that can give you an idea of what is required:

Getting with the programme

	Every 2 weeks	Every 4 weeks	Every 3 months
Puppies 2-3 months	✓		
Puppies 3-6 months		✓	
Puppies over 6 months			✓*
Adult dogs			✓*

For puppies under two months old ask your vet about specific puppy wormers.

* More frequent worming may be appropriate after assessing the likelihood of the dog to reacquire infection together with the risk of zoonotic transmission to man.

Please ask a member of staff for more information about the best way to protect your dog and your family from worms. They are best placed to give specific advice.



Key points about worming your dog

Regular worming is essential

The aim is prevention of worm problems

You dog's lifestyle affects how often you need to treat them

Please ask your veterinary practice for individual advice on the best worming options for your dog/s

Remember: It's not just dogs that need protecting

Interested to find out more? Visit: www.dolpac.co.uk

This leaflet has been produced by Vetoquinol, manufacturers of Dolpac Tablets For Small Dogs, Dolpac Tablets For Medium Dogs and Dolpac Tablets for Large dogs.

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Important information for dog owners about worming your dog



Introduction

Parasitic worms is not a pleasant subject but is a very important one. This is particularly the case if you have a dog that is directly or indirectly in contact with children. This leaflet is designed to give you some straight forward information about intestinal worms in dogs, including advice to ensure worms don't cause problems for you, your dog or family members.

A bit about worms

Most worms that infect dogs live in the intestines. They feed on the digesting food that is found there or attach to the gut wall and feed on the blood supply. Worms come in several shapes and sizes. There are two broad categories that are of most significance in dogs:

- **Nematodes** can cause problems in adult dogs but the biggest threat from Nematodes is when a subgroup called the Ascarids (roundworms) infect puppies.
- **Tapeworms** (Scientific name "Cestodes") can also create a number of problems in both dogs and people. One of the worms called *Dipylidium caninum* is unusual because it is usually transmitted to dogs through contact with fleas. To control this worm you need to have a regular worming programme and flea control programme.

There are other, more uncommon worms that do not live in the intestines, your vet will advise you if they feel your dog is at risk from these.

Risks to your dog

Even if heavily infected, worms are rarely life threatening in adult dogs but some external signs can occur. In puppies some of the problems created can be potentially fatal, for example when the worms cause a blockage of the intestines. Depending on the worms species involved other symptoms seen include vomiting, diarrhoea, poor coat quality and a "pot bellied" appearance.

It's not just dogs that need protecting

Dogs may well be man's best friend but some of the worms they can harbour are highly undesirable and can be passed on to people. The risk of infection is higher in children because of playing outdoors where dogs have been and the close contact that they enjoy with pets. Problems in people can range from mild skin symptoms to infections which can lead to serious complications.

