



COMMON PARASITES AND INFECTIONS IN DOGS

As your newly adopted pup settles into your home, it's important to be aware of intestinal parasites that are common in all dogs, including rescue dogs. As mentioned during the adoption process, all of our puppies and dogs are dewormed as part of their preventative care while in foster with our Mississippi and Alabama rescue partners. Approximately 7 to 10 days before traveling north, they visit our veterinarian and must receive a clean bill of health to be transported north. This is all documented on your pup's health certificate, which is included in your adoption folder.

Upon arrival to Massachusetts, your pup goes through a second round of deworming. Despite these measures, worms and parasites often appear after transport and adoption due to the stress associated with these transitions. All adopters should bring a fecal sample to their initial wellness exam with their veterinarian. As outlined in our adoption contract, this should be scheduled within one week of adoption.

If your dog tests positive for a parasite, PLEASE DON'T PANIC. Parasites are common and easily treated. In addition to treatment, your veterinarian may also suggest a follow-up fecal test to ensure the parasites are eradicated. We always encourage universal and common sense precautions when cleaning up after your pet: clean up fecal matter quickly; sanitize after any accidents that occur inside the house; wash your hands after disposing of animal waste; clean and sanitize kennels and bedding regularly

Hookworms

- Invade, inhabit, and live in the small intestine o Can cause dark and tarry stool, diarrhea, constipation, and loss of appetite
- Transmitted through contaminated water and environment
- Treatment - dewormer

Roundworms

- Live in the small intestine
- Can cause vomiting, lethargy, abdominal distention, diarrhea
- Can be visible to the naked eye when can become quite long and present in high numbers in infected animals
- Transmitted through ingestion of roundworm eggs present in water, vomit, feces, and food o Treatment - dewormer

Tapeworms

- Infects the small intestines causing irritation of the hind quarters (dragging bum on floor and licking)
- Tapeworm segments may be visible in fecal matter and will resemble small grains of rice or sesame seeds
- Treatment - dewormer

Coccidia

- Intestinal tract infection which can cause watery, mucus-like diarrhea
- Caused by stress (such as transport, going into a new environment) and is spread through fecal matter
- Treatment is combination of dewormer, and can also include hydration therapy (if the dog has become dehydrated), and medication to calm the GI tract

Giardia

- Intestinal infection caused by ingesting infected fecal matter, directly or indirectly (in the environment)
- Causes diarrhea and can often appear greasy with strong odor
- Treated with a medication to kill the parasite and sometimes a medication to calm the GI tract

Whipworms

- Small, thin worms that dig into the lining of the large intestine
- Causes irritation, resulting in diarrhea
- Transmitted through ingesting infected soil, food, water, feces
- Treatment - dewormer