

# INTESTINAL PARASITES IN DOGS



Intestinal parasites may be tiny, but they can cause big problems. These unwelcome guests live in a dog's digestive tract and can lead to health issues ranging from tummy trouble to serious illness especially in puppies. The good news? They're common, treatable, and preventable.

## Common types of parasites

### ROUNDWORMS



**Appearance:** Long, spaghetti-like worms  
**Spread:** Ingested from soil, feces, or mother's milk  
**Symptoms:** Bloated belly, diarrhea, vomiting, poor weight gain, worms in stool or vomit  
**Risk:** Very high in puppies  
**Contagious?** Yes — spreads through feces to dogs and sometimes humans

### HOOKWORMS



**Appearance:** Tiny, thread-like worms that latch onto the intestinal wall (not visible in poop)  
**Spread:** Contact with contaminated soil, feces, or from nursing  
**Symptoms:** Bloody stool, anemia, weakness, weight loss, pale gums  
**Risk:** Very dangerous to puppies; can be fatal  
**Contagious?** Yes — spreads to dogs and humans through contaminated soil or skin contact

### GIARDIA



**Appearance:** Microscopic, not visible without a lab  
**Spread:** Contaminated water, shared bowls, or feces  
**Symptoms:** Watery diarrhea, gas, vomiting, lethargy  
**Risk:** Moderate, higher in puppies or stressed dogs  
**Contagious?** Yes — spreads to dogs and possibly humans through infected water or surfaces

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### TAPEWORMS



Appearance: Flat, segmented worms; rice-like pieces in poop or near rear

Spread: Ingesting infected fleas or rodents

Symptoms: Mild scooting, licking rear, visible segments

Risk: Low, but uncomfortable

Contagious? Yes — dogs and humans can get infected through fleas or contaminated food/water (not direct contact)

### WHIPWORMS



Appearance: Tiny, thread-like worms that latch onto the intestinal wall (not visible in poop)

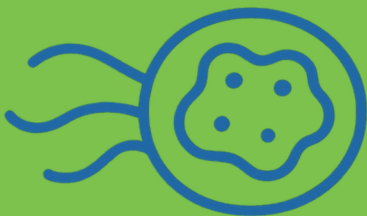
Spread: Contact with contaminated soil, feces, or from nursing

Symptoms: Bloody stool, anemia, weakness, weight loss, pale gums

Risk: Very dangerous to puppies; can be fatal

Contagious? Yes — spreads to dogs and humans through contaminated soil or skin contact

### COCCIDIA



Appearance: Microscopic, not visible in stool

Spread: Ingesting infected feces (kennels, parks, littermates)

Symptoms: Watery or bloody diarrhea, weight loss, dehydration

Risk: High for puppies or sick dogs

Contagious? No to humans — but spreads easily between dogs via contaminated feces or surfaces