



## Parasitic and vector-borne disease protection

How to help both your dog and your family



## What are parasites and why do they matter?

Parasites are organisms that survive by feeding on animals and sometimes people.

They can also spread diseases that can threaten the health of your dog and family.

Exposure to infection is possible wherever dogs, ticks, mosquitoes, and other blood-sucking insects are found.

Prevention may not be 100% effective.

It's important to have your dog tested regularly as recommended by your veterinarian.

**Review the enclosed guide to understand infectious diseases in dogs.**



# Ask your veterinarian about:



**Fecal antigen testing.**  
This type of testing finds intestinal parasite infections that other types of testing may miss.



**Blood tests, including a comprehensive vector-borne disease screen.**  
Testing your dog's blood reveals diseases spread by ticks and mosquitoes.



**Effective treatments and prevention.**  
Your veterinarian will recommend the best approach for your dog.



# Your guide to understanding parasitic and vector-borne diseases

	Causes of infection	Infectious diseases	Most common signs of infection	Disease progression if not treated	Diagnostics	Treatment	Protection
	<b>Worms</b> can cause infection when dogs are exposed to contaminated soil or stool that contains eggs or worm larvae. Infection may also spread from mother to puppies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hookworm</li> <li>• Roundworm</li> <li>• Whipworm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Loose stool or blood in stool</li> <li>• Pale gums</li> <li>• Poor hair quality</li> <li>• Poor health</li> <li>• Pot-bellied appearance</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Or may not show any signs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to grow/thrive</li> <li>• Severe anemia</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Death</li> </ul>	Stool sample and tests, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fecal antigen testing</li> <li>• Fecal flotation</li> </ul>	Deworming medication and monthly preventives	Monthly parasite control products (available from your veterinarian), often included in your monthly heartworm preventives  Also remember to pick up your dog's stool regularly
	<b>Infected mosquitoes</b> spread worm larvae from infected dogs to your dog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heartworm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild cough</li> <li>• Reduced appetite</li> <li>• Reluctance to move or exercise</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heart failure</li> <li>• Lung disease</li> <li>• Death</li> </ul>	Blood tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive vector-borne diseases screen</li> <li>• Chemistry profile</li> <li>• Complete blood count</li> </ul> A urine test  Other (depending on initial findings and clinical signs)	Your veterinarian will advise the best treatment	Oral, topical and injectable heartworm preventives
	<b>Infected ticks</b> carry bacteria and bite your dog, spreading infection. Ticks spread many diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lyme disease</li> <li>• Ehrlichiosis</li> <li>• Anaplasmosis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bloody nose</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Lack of energy</li> <li>• Lameness</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Painful joints</li> <li>• Pale gums</li> <li>• Or may not show any signs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autoimmune diseases</li> <li>• Bleeding complications</li> <li>• Chronic joint pain</li> <li>• Damaged joints</li> <li>• Death</li> <li>• Kidney disease</li> <li>• Low platelet count</li> <li>• Low white blood cell count</li> </ul>		Antibiotics recommended by your veterinarian	Tick removal and use of tick preventives and Lyme vaccines



**IMPORTANT:** Prevention may not be 100% effective. Test your dog at least once a year.



## Helpful tips to help protect your dog and family.

Pick up and dispose of your dog's stool regularly.

Wash your hands after exposure to your dog's urine, stool, soil (gardening), and sandboxes.

Cover sandboxes and play areas to prevent wildlife and strays from contaminating these areas.

Remind children not to put dirt or dirty hands in their mouths.

Check your dog and your family for ticks regularly. If you find a tick, remove it right away.

Use parasite preventive medications as directed by your veterinarian.

Have your dog tested at least once a year or as recommended by your veterinarian.

Consult with your veterinarian on including comprehensive parasite and vector-borne disease testing in your pet's next wellness visit.

### **IDEXX Laboratories Canada**

1345 Denison Street  
Markham, ON L3R 5V2  
Canada

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