

Worming Fact Sheet



Worms are almost inevitable in dogs – so knowing what to look for and how to treat them is important for your greyhound's health.

Worming must be part of a regular health program, not only do these parasites affect your greyhounds, they also have the potential to infect humans, with children being most susceptible. It is therefore important you get the right product to do a thorough job – not all tablets are created equally. **Only products made for canines should be used to ensure best treatment.**

Greyhounds can become infected with worms by consuming worms or eggs from the environment. Eggs can live for up to five (5) years in the ground. Pests such as fleas and mosquitos can also transmit worms – keep these parasites under control with regular treatments.

It is especially important to worm puppies as they are most susceptible to the effects of worms. Puppies can be born with worms. Worm puppies every two (2) weeks until 12 weeks of age, then monthly until 6 months of age. All greyhounds from 6 months of age should be wormed every 3 months for life with an all wormer.

Pregnant and nursing mothers should also be treated at; time of mating, before birth of puppies, every two (2) weeks while lactating, and then every 3 months. Heavy worm infestation in puppies should be repeated 10 days after an initial dose is administered.

Worming tablets containing Levamisole (FIDO's) can result in returning a positive sample. Take veterinary advice in relation to how your treatment schedule aligns with your racing schedule.

Worm warning signs

- Weakness and listlessness
- Diarrhoea or vomiting
- Weight loss despite a good appetite
- Abnormally swollen stomach
- Dull coat
- Rubbing bottom on ground or "scooting"

Keeping worms at bay

- Clean kennels and greyhounds bedding regularly
- Control pests that harbour worms including snails, mice, rats, and fleas
- Regularly remove faeces from the garden / yards / kennels
- Always wash your hands thoroughly after playing, cleaning, and before eating
- If you have sand emptying yards, make sure they are turned over and topped up regularly
- Treat all greyhounds regularly with a canine intestinal wormer

Types of worms

Roundworm: can be contracted via infected faeces or dirt. This thin, spaghetti-like parasite, about 12 cm long, can cause a potbellied appearance. Symptoms include weight loss, weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea or mucus in the stool, and stunted growth.

Hookworm: is one of the most dangerous of all intestinal parasites. It can be transmitted from mothers to puppies before birth or through suckling. It may be detected by the level of your puppies lethargy, anaemia, poor appetite, and black tarlike stools that can contain blood.

Tapeworm: can infect a dog when it eats its larvae from a host animal, such as a flea or a mouse. There are no obvious symptoms, but small, rice-like segments can be found around the greyhound's anus or in the puppy's stool. Mature tapeworms cause your puppy to eat more than normal, but they do not gain weight.

Whipworm: will find its way to your greyhound's digestive tract, causing chronic bowel inflammation. You may notice mucus in the stools, weight loss, or diarrhoea.

Coccidia: is an organism that can live in your puppies intestines, sometimes ingested via raw or uncooked meat, including rodents. Symptoms can include diarrhoea, fever, weight loss, and loss of appetite.

Heartworm: can enter a greyhound from a bite of a mosquito. It causes heart or lung damage, coughing, lethargy, fatigue, and can be fatal. Heartworms can be detected through a blood test. It is difficult to cure, though simple to prevent.

The following table shows an example of a best practice worming schedule for greyhounds to help protect them from these preventable parasites

Age / Condition	When to treat for worms
Pregnant & Lactating bitches	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prior to mating 2. 10 days before whelping 3. Every 2 weeks while lactating
New born pups (birth to 12 weeks old)	Every two (2) weeks (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 weeks old)
Puppies - Juveniles (12 weeks to 6 months old)	Monthly
6 months old – rest of life	Once every 3 months