

PUPPIES AND WORMS

What are worms?

Roundworms, tapeworms and, less commonly, whipworms, hookworms and heartworm make up the spectrum of internal parasites that are normally referred to as 'worms'.

Worms stop dogs absorbing all the nutrients in their food and can actually damage the internal lining of the gut. Worms can cause diarrhoea, bleeding into the gut, weight loss, vomiting and general ill-health.

What are the symptoms of worm infection?

Evidence of roundworms and tapeworms can be seen in stools and vomit, but this can be easily missed. Your dog can be infested with worms without any external signs.

Puppies can become infected with worms while in the womb or from their mother's milk and are especially susceptible to the problems worms can cause.

How do I treat my puppy for worms?

Puppies should be wormed once a fortnight from 2 weeks old until 12 weeks old, then once a month until 6 months. After your puppy is 6 months old, he will need worming every 3 months.

Below is a table of recommended products for puppies and the recommended minimum age.

Product Name	Age recommendation	Weight recommendation:
Drontal Puppy Suspension	From 2 weeks up to 12 weeks	Over 1 kg
Drontal Plus Tablets	From 10 weeks	Over 2kg
Panacur Granules	Weaned puppies under 6 months	1 sachet per 4kg weight (1.8g sachet)
Panacur Liquid	Under 6 months	Over 1kg

Wormers – for Dogs over 6 months old

To tackle worm infections and prevent future build-ups, it's best to treat your dog regularly with a reputable wormer. Worming every three months is a good rule of thumb, but a vet should advise a worming routine to meet the specific needs of your dog, based on its state of health and home circumstances.

Not all wormers are effective against all worms. The following table shows which wormers effectively treat which worms.

(active ingredients appear in brackets)

	Roundworms	Flea Taneworms	Taenia Taneworms	E. granulosus Taneworms	Whipworms	Hookworms	Heartworm
Drontal Plus -tablets (febantel/praziquantel/pyrantel pamoate)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Panacur or Granofen -powder, syringe, liquid (fenbendazole)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Droncit -injection, tablets (praziquantel)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Stronghold –spot on (selamectin)	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Advocate –spot on (imidoclopramid/moxidectin)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Milbemax -tablet (milbemycin/praziquantel)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓* *	✗
Piperazine (in some older preparations)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Nitroscanate (Bob Martin All-in-One)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗

* Toxocara only

** Not Uncinaria stenocephala