

MANAGING PARASITES — IN THE — OUTDOOR DOG

- **Outdoor dogs are at a high risk for parasite infections because of environmental exposure**
- **Safe-Guard® Canine (fenbendazole) is the only OTC medication that combats the four major classes of intestinal parasites found in dogs**
- **Safe-Guard is the only OTC dewormer effective against whipworms**
- **Safe-Guard is safe for puppies 6 weeks and older and pregnant females**
- **Safe-Guard is available in pre-measured packets for convenient dosing**

Outdoor dogs are at risk for parasites that can cause serious health issues and Safe-Guard® Canine (fenbendazole) is the only over-the-counter medication available to combat the four major classes of parasites (whipworms, roundworms, hookworms and Taenia tapeworms).

Environmental exposure and availability of intermediate hosts make these classes of parasites a continual threat.

Preventing parasite infections in dogs is not only important for the overall health of the dog, but also reduces human health risks associated with environmental contamination. Clinical signs of parasitism in dogs will vary, depending upon the types and numbers of parasites.

Health problems associated with parasites in the dog's digestive tract can range from decreased vigor to serious disease or death. Parasites often shed eggs or other life stages in feces, contaminating the environment and allowing for reinfection to occur, as well as creating human health risks.





Whipworms (*Trichuris vulpis*)

- Outdoor dogs are at increased risk
- Soil is a reservoir of eggs passed by dogs, foxes, or coyotes where they can remain for extended periods of time
- Dogs are infected by ingesting eggs with infective larvae
- Found in the large intestine, can cause inflammation, increased mucus production, and occasionally hemorrhage
- Dogs may have periodic bouts of diarrhea or formed stools with increased mucus and streaks of blood

Taenia tapeworms (*Taenia pisiformis*)

- Widespread in North America
- Often under diagnosed due to testing methodology
- *Taenia pisiformis* is especially common in outdoor dogs because of their access to the intermediate hosts, rabbits and rodents
- Flea and tick treatments help prevent infections by *Dipylidium caninum*; this is not the case for *Taenia pisiformis*

Roundworms (*Toxocara canis*, *Toxascaris leonina*)

- May be acquired in utero or through mother's milk
- Other infection may occur through ingesting larvated eggs from contaminated environment or ingestion of hosts such as rodents that have consumed larvated eggs
- Can be fatal, especially in puppies
- *Toxocara canis* is an important zoonotic disease agent, especially for children who may ingest larvated eggs while playing outside

Hookworms (*Ancylostoma caninum*, *Uncinaria stenocephala*)

- May be acquired in utero or through mother's milk
- Infection may occur through a contaminated environment or ingestion of infected hosts such as rodents
- Attach to lining of dog's small intestine leading to diarrhea, black stools, weight loss, and anemia
- The most common cause of cutaneous larva migrans (a skin disease) in people, a zoonotic disease

Importance of regular deworming

Regular deworming is essential in preventing contamination of the environment with parasite life stages. Safe-Guard® (fenbendazole) Canine Dewormer is the only over-the-counter dewormer that treats the four major intestinal worms common in the outdoor dog, including whipworms and Taenia tapeworms. Safe-Guard Canine Dewormer can be given to puppies 6 weeks of age and older and pregnant females. And since it has no known drug interactions, it should be compatible with other medications a dog might be taking.

It is recommended that dogs over 6 months of age be dewormed at least twice a year with Safe-Guard Canine Dewormer.

Additionally, outdoor dogs who are regularly treated with a flea & tick control product are at a lower risk of exposure to the flea tapeworm *Dipylidium caninum*. There is no product to prevent exposure of outdoor dogs to rabbits and rodents – the intermediate host of *Taenia pisiformis*.

Approximately 1% of dogs had vomiting associated with the use of this product. Safe-Guard® Canine Dewormer has no known drug interactions and is an ideal complement to monthly heartworm prevention products, which may not protect against all four major types of intestinal worms.



Consult your veterinarian for assistance in the diagnosis, treatment, and control of parasitism.

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