

Keep your kennels worm free.

All you need to know for worm control from Greyhounds as Pets vet of choice, Southern Rangitikei Veterinary services.

Endoparasites, often referred to as ‘worms’, are parasites that live internally within their host species, making it easy to forget about their importance. They can potentially transfer from animals to humans and cause severe diseases in infected animals, therefore preventing a heavy worm burden in dogs of all ages is extremely important.

Worming protocol for puppies:

Use an all-wormer product like Endoguard or Drontal once every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then once monthly until 6 months of age. Regular worming every 3 months is then recommended thereafter.

Worming protocol for adult dogs:

Use an all-wormer product (Endoguard or Drontal) at least once every 3 months throughout the animal’s life. Lapsing treatments can result in heavy worm burdens, slow growth, malnourishment, and can pose a significant human health risk. Animals with heavy worm burdens may require more frequent dosing, which also depends on the product used, so please consult your local veterinarian for advice on this.

Keeping the dog’s environment (kennel and outdoors) clean and free from faecal material is also very important at preventing worm reinfection. Feeding a premium diet will help this by reducing faecal bulk.

Types of internal parasites that affect dogs:

- **Roundworms**

Roundworms are a common issue for young pets, living in the intestine. Heavy infestations can result in intestinal obstructions, vomiting and diarrhoea and malnourishment.

- **Hookworm**

The hookworm *ancylostoma* mostly affects greyhounds and working dogs in NZ due to husbandry practices. They are a common cause of enteritis (bowel inflammation) and anaemia (blood loss). The parasite sticks to the gut lining, and can remove up to 0.2ml of blood per day. Canine hookworms can also migrate through the skin – causing loss of condition, diarrhoea, blood in stools, pale gums and poor racing performance.

- **Whipworm**

Whipworms are about 6mm long, feed on blood and live inside the intestine. They can cause watery, bloody diarrhoea and pain.

- **Lungworm**

Lungworms are worms that live in the lung tissue and trachea (windpipe), and can potentially cause respiratory problems. Once treated with a suitable dewormer, the worms are coughed up, or swallowed and excreted through the faeces.

- **Flea tapeworm**

These tapeworms come from infected fleas, they then mature in the intestines into large worms. Tapeworm segments can sometimes be seen stuck to the dog’s bottom area as small, white ‘grains of rice’. Flea control is important at preventing this parasitic infestation.

Sticking to these recommended worming protocols will greatly improve your animal’s health and reduce the potential risk that these organisms pose to human health.