

UNDERSTANDING PARASITIC DISEASES IN DOGS

Parasitic diseases are infections caused by parasites such as worms, fleas, and ticks. These parasites can cause various health problems in dogs, including digestive issues, anemia, and skin irritation. It's important to understand the different types of parasitic diseases affecting dogs and how to prevent and treat them.

Worms

Several types of worms can infect dogs, including roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms. These parasites can be transmitted through contaminated soil, water, food or through the bite of an infected insect. Symptoms of worm infections may include weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, and a pot-bellied appearance. Treatment typically involves the use of deworming medication.

Fleas

Fleas are small insects that feed on the blood of dogs and other animals. They can cause intense itching and irritation and can also transmit other diseases. Flea prevention measures include the use of flea-preventative medications and frequent vacuuming and washing of bedding and areas where the dog spends time.

Ticks

Ticks are blood-sucking parasites that can transmit a range of diseases, including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and ehrlichiosis. Symptoms of tick-borne diseases may include fever, lethargy, and joint pain. Ticks can be removed using tweezers or a tick removal tool but can become lodged if not removed correctly. Contact your vet to have it removed at our office if you don't feel confident removing it! Tick prevention measures include the use of tick-preventative medications and regular checking for ticks when in high grasses.

How to prevent parasitic diseases in dogs:

It's critical to follow a regular deworming schedule and use flea and tick preventatives as your veterinarian recommends. Even skipping one dose can put your pet at risk. Please contact your veterinarian if you suspect your dog may have a parasitic infection.

Understanding and preventing parasitic diseases can help keep your furry friend healthy and happy for many years to come!

GUIDE TO PARASITIC DISEASES

Symptoms of parasitic diseases in dogs:

- Weight loss
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Intense itching and irritation
- Anemia
- Pot-bellied appearance
- Fever
- Lethargy
- Joint pain

Treatment options:

- Deworming medication
- Flea preventative medications
- Tick preventative medications
- Removal of ticks using tweezers or a tick removal tool
- Regular vacuuming and washing of bedding and areas where the dog spends time
- Avoiding exposure to potentially contaminated areas
- Consulting with a veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment

Causes of parasitic diseases in dogs:

- Contaminated soil, water, or food
- Bites from infected insects