

## What are parasites and why do they matter?

- + Parasites are organisms that survive by feeding on animals and sometimes people.
- + Parasites can live in a dog's or cat's blood, organs, or on their skin.
- + They can also spread diseases that can threaten the health of your pet and family.
- + Exposure to infection is possible wherever ticks, mosquitoes, and other blood-sucking insects are found.
- + Intestinal parasites can easily be contracted through contaminated dirt or sometimes through other parasites like fleas.
- + Prevention may not be 100% effective.
- + It's important to have your pet tested regularly as recommended by your veterinarian.

Parasite screening is an important part of your pet's regular wellness diagnostics. By identifying issues early, we can help your pet live a longer, happier life.

## Ask your veterinarian about:



### Fecal antigen testing:

finds intestinal parasite infections that other types of testing may miss.



### Blood tests, including a comprehensive vector-borne disease screen:

testing your dog's blood reveals diseases spread by ticks and mosquitoes.



### Effective treatments and prevention:

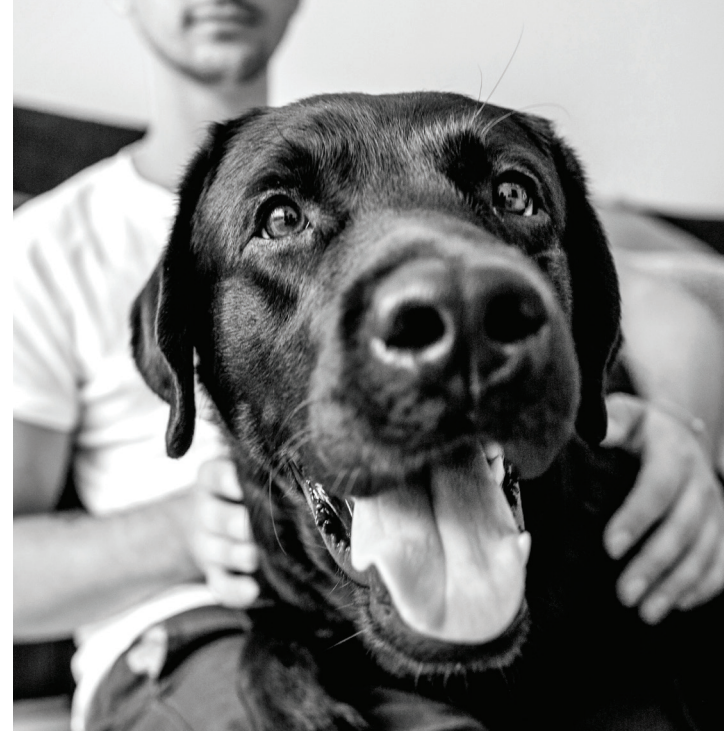
your veterinarian will recommend the best approach for your dog or cat.

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## Parasitic and vector-borne disease protection.

How to help both your pet and your family.






# Helpful tips to help protect your pet and family.

- + Pick up and dispose of your pet's stool regularly.
- + Wash your hands after exposure to your pet's urine, stool, soil (gardening), and sandboxes.
- + Cover sandboxes and play areas to prevent wild-life and strays from contaminating these areas.
- + Remind children not to put dirt or dirty hands in their mouths.
- + Check your pet and your family for ticks regularly. If you find a tick, remove it right away.
- + Use parasite preventive medications as directed by your veterinarian.
- + Have your pet tested at least once a year or as recommended by your veterinarian.



# Your guide to understanding parasitic and vector-borne diseases.

Causes of infection	Infectious diseases	Most common signs of infection	Disease progression if not treated	Diagnostics	Treatment	Protection
 <p><b>Exposure to contaminated soil or stool</b> that contains eggs or worm larvae, <b>transmission from mother</b> to offspring during pregnancy, or <b>ingestion of infected fleas</b> can lead to worm infections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hookworm</li> <li>• Roundworm</li> <li>• Whipworm</li> <li>• Flea tapeworm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Loose stool or blood in stool</li> <li>• Pale gums</li> <li>• Poor hair quality</li> <li>• Poor health</li> <li>• Pot-bellied appearance</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Or may not show any signs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to grow/thrive</li> <li>• Severe anemia</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Death</li> </ul>	<p>Stool sample and tests, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fecal antigen testing</li> <li>• Fecal ova and parasites testing</li> </ul>	<p>Deworming medication and monthly preventives</p>	<p>Monthly parasite control products (available from your veterinarian), often included in your monthly heartworm preventives</p> <p>Also remember to pick up your pet's stool regularly</p>
 <p><b>Infected mosquitoes</b> spread worm larvae from infected animals to your pet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heartworm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild cough</li> <li>• Reduced appetite</li> <li>• Reluctance to move or exercise</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heart failure</li> <li>• Lung disease</li> <li>• Death</li> </ul>	<p>Blood tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive vector-borne diseases screen</li> <li>• Chemistry profile</li> <li>• Complete blood count</li> </ul> <p>A urine test</p> <p>Other (depending on initial findings and clinical signs)</p>	<p>Your veterinarian will advise the best treatment</p>	<p>Oral, topical, and injectable heartworm preventives</p>
 <p><b>Infected ticks</b> carry bacteria and bite your pet, spreading infection. Ticks spread many diseases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> (Lyme)</li> <li>• <i>Ehrlichia</i> spp.</li> <li>• <i>Anaplasma</i> spp.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bloody nose</li> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Lack of energy</li> <li>• Lameness</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Painful joints</li> <li>• Pale gums</li> <li>• Or may not show any signs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autoimmune diseases</li> <li>• Bleeding complications</li> <li>• Chronic joint pain</li> <li>• Damaged joints</li> <li>• Death</li> <li>• Kidney disease</li> <li>• Low platelet count</li> <li>• Low white blood cell count</li> </ul>	<p>Blood tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive vector-borne diseases screen</li> <li>• Chemistry profile</li> <li>• Complete blood count</li> </ul> <p>A urine test</p> <p>Other (depending on initial findings and clinical signs)</p>	<p>Antibiotics recommended by your veterinarian</p>	<p>Tick removal and use of tick preventives and Lyme vaccines</p>

**IMPORTANT:** Prevention may not be 100% effective. Test your pet at least once a year.