

VETSHOPAUSTRALIA

A GUIDE TO

Dog Parasite Prevention



**Helping protect Australian dogs,
wherever adventure takes them**

The four parasites every dog owner should know



Fleas

Tiny insects that can cause itching, allergies and tapeworms.



Ticks

External parasites that can transmit serious diseases.



Worms

Internal parasites that live in the gut and can affect health.



Heartworm

Spread by mosquitoes and can affect the heart and lungs.

How dogs can be exposed



Parks and grass



Bushwalking and hiking



Beaches and coastal areas



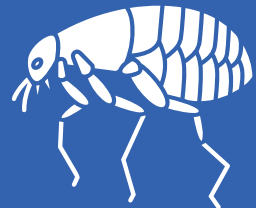
Other dogs and shared spaces



Mosquito bites

Fleas: more than an itchy nuisance

Fleas are tiny, fast-moving insects that feed on your dog's blood. Even indoor dogs can pick them up outdoors or from other pets.



How dogs are exposed

- Contact with infested pets
- Flea eggs in the environment
- Carpets, bedding and yards

Signs to look for

- Scratching or biting
- Red, inflamed skin
- Flea dirt (tiny black specks)
- Hair loss

Why prevention matters

Fleas can cause discomfort, skin infections, allergies and tapeworms. Regular prevention breaks the life cycle and protects your dog and home.



Dr Mark's Tip

Fleas can be hard to see but easy to feel. Regular prevention is the best way to keep your dog comfortable year-round.

Ticks: small parasite, serious risk

Ticks attach to the skin to feed on the blood and can transmit diseases and, in rare cases cause tick paralysis.



Where ticks may be found

- Long grass and bushland
- Tracks and walking trails
- Gardens and backyards

Signs that need urgent attention

- Weakness or wobbliness
- Vomiting or coughing
- Change in bark or breathing

Daily tick checks

Check your dog after outdoor adventures, especially around ears, neck, armpits and between toes.



If you suspect tick paralysis, contact your vet immediately.

Worms

Intestinal worms live in your dog's gut and can affect health, nutrition and growth.

Roundworm



Common in puppies. Can cause bloating, vomiting and poor growth.

Hookworm



Can cause blood loss and anaemia, leading to weakness.

How exposure happens



Ingestion of eggs or larvae from soil, faeces or contaminated areas.

Possible signs

- Diarrhoea or soft stools
- Vomiting
- Weight loss or poor growth
- Pot-bellied appearance (puppies)

Protecting your household

- Regular worming helps keep your dog healthy
- Pick up and dispose of faeces promptly
- Good hygiene protects people and pets

Heartworm: spread by mosquitoes

Heartworm can affect the heart, lungs and blood vessels and may be life-threatening if left untreated.

How transmission occurs



Why prevention needs to be consistent

Heartworm prevention needs to be given every month, all year round. One missed dose can leave your dog at risk.

Talk to your vet before changing prevention

Your vet can recommend the best prevention for your dog based on their lifestyle, health and test status.

Prevention is the safest and most effective way to protect your dog from heartworm.

Choosing parasite protection for your dog

Every dog is different. Consider their lifestyle, health and individual risks when choosing the right protection.

Things to consider

- Location & travel
- Age & life stage
- Current weight
- Health history
- Existing products
- Parasite coverage

Your simple prevention checklist

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Choose the correct product and weight range | ☐ Record every dose |
| ☐ Read and follow the product labels | ☐ Check for ticks after outdoor adventures |
| ☐ Set a recurring monthly reminder | ☐ Speak to your vet if unsure |



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Protection For Dogs**

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