

Puppy and Kitten Parasite Prevention and Deworming

Roundworms (Ascaris) are present from birth

Initial contamination takes place via the placenta or maternal milk. The roundworm larvae then migrate through the puppy's body and eventually settle in the intestine where they reach adulthood and begin to lay eggs, which are shed in the feces. During their migration, the roundworm larvae pass through the respiratory system. A heavy infestation of roundworm larvae can explain a cough in very young puppies.

A single treatment cannot rid the puppy of all roundworms because most usable dewormers are active against adult worms but not against the larvae. Multiple administrations are therefore necessary to eliminate the roundworms as they complete their development. Regular deworming also limits the risk of environmental contamination by the parasite's eggs.

Deworming Protocol in Breeding and Early Life

In breeding facilities, puppies must be dewormed from **15 days of age**. For maximum effectiveness, the treatment must be renewed **every 15 days until the age of 2 months**.

When the weaned puppy leaves the breeder to live in a protected environment (without other dogs nearby, with limited outdoor access...), it is possible to slow down the frequency of treatments: **one deworming around 8 weeks and one at 12 weeks** are then sufficient.

A heavy parasitic infestation is likely to weaken the puppy's immune defenses: it is therefore important to deworm it **a few days before the primary vaccinations** (around 8 weeks) and **the first boosters** (around 12 weeks).

Puppy Dewormers: Treatment from 3 to 12 Months

After 3 months, the ideal frequency of deworming is **once a month until the age of 6 months, then once a quarter (every 3 months) thereafter**. The schedule of administration depends on the contamination of the environment and the puppy's lifestyle. If they are expected to live among adult dogs (training classes, boarding), it is strongly advised to deworm them before entering the new premises.

The ideal dewormer for all puppies does not exist. It all depends on the degree of infestation, the age of the puppy, the number of animals to be treated... Some puppies are more sensitive than others, such as Collies and other related breeds.

Dewormers come in the form of tablets, liquid, or paste to be administered via syringe, or as a pipette to be applied to the coat ("spot-on"). Read the instructions carefully before use: even though the safety margins are generally high, the dose must be adapted to the puppy's weight.

Dewormers for Kittens

We recommend **two deworming treatments at an interval of 10-14 days** for kittens. On the other hand, if they go outdoors and hunt, a sequential annual program of targeted dewormers is preferred.