



**Officer Vet**

409 Princes Highway, Officer 3809  
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[www.officervet.com.au](http://www.officervet.com.au)

# WORMING PUPPIES & DOGS

## Why is it important to worm my dog?

There are as many as 11 different types of worms that can live in your dog's intestines. These parasites are a health risk to both pets and people and it is very easy and cheap to protect against them. If your dog has not been regularly wormed, there is a high chance that he or she has worms even if they seem to be in good health.

Roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms are all very common in dogs and can cause diarrhoea, weight loss, generally poor body and skin condition, anaemia and even death. Young puppies are particularly prone to worm problems and so it is especially important for them to be wormed regularly. Unfortunately, a heavy worm burden in a puppy can affect its health for life, and can sometimes prove fatal.

## How often should I worm my dog?

Puppies – Worm every 2 weeks up to 12 weeks of age.  
- Then once a month up to 6 months of age.

Adult Dogs – After 6 months of age, worm every 3 months for life.

## What products should I use to worm my dog?

There are so many different worming products on the market that it can be very confusing to know which one is best for your dog.

### *Puppy worming syrups*

- An easy way of administering small doses to pups from 2 weeks of age.
- May not cover all variety of worms

### *All wormers*

- Usually come in tablet form.
- Some allwormers come in the form of a tasty chew.
- This is a good alternative for dogs that are difficult to medicate.

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### *Combination Products*

- It is now possible to get a wormer that is combined with heartworm prevention and sometimes flea control. However they do not all cover for tapeworm.
- It is usually a once a month treatment, and it is best to seek veterinary advice before using them.

### **Can humans catch worms from dogs?**

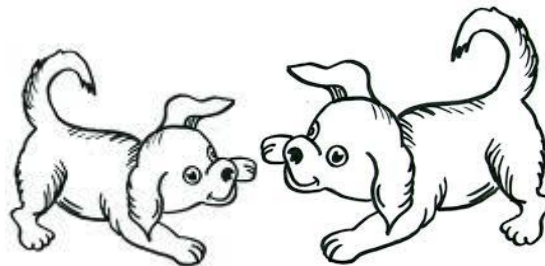
Some worms can certainly cause major health problems in humans, particularly children. Although not common, roundworm infestation has been known to cause blindness in humans. Another potential problem is the hydatid tapeworm. Statistics show that one person per day in Australia is being treated for hydatid disease. This dangerous parasite causes cysts to grow in the body and even in the brain, which can be life threatening. Hydatid tapeworm is different from common tapeworm, so when worming your dog, make sure that the worming medication you use covers for hydatid tapeworm, as some supermarket brands do not.

It is important to be aware that worming preparations for humans will not generally protect against these canine worms. The best way to protect your family is to make sure that any household pets are regularly wormed.

### **How else can I protect my family from worms?**

- Encourage children to wash their hands and face after playing with the family dog.
- Never feed your dog raw offal. Dogs can contract the hydatid tapeworm from offal.

Worming products can be purchased over the counter at the clinic at any time and our nursing staff will be happy to advise you on the best product for your dog.



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