



## What is Deworming? Why is it Necessary?

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Treating your pet for parasites is an important part of maintaining their health. It is also important to prevent the spread of parasites to other animals as well as people, because some parasites can be zoonotic and may lead to infection in humans also ! So as a pet parent you should be careful about your pets deworming schedule for not only keeping your pet healthy but also to prevent yourself from getting any worms !

There are many worms in the environment but Worms which basically infect pet dogs and cats are hookworm, heartworm, whipworm, roundworms etc. and may lead to weight loss, disturbed growth, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Loss of appetite, Gas and Abdominal pain, Pot-bellied appearance in young animals, Foul-smelling poop, GI blood loss leading to anemia.

How does your pet get exposed to these worms?

These parasites basically spread from infected ground and bite of mosquitoes and other insects.

The eggs of parasites present in the poop, when accidentally ingested by the dog or cat, gets its way to the GI tract of animal, the eggs of the parasites hatches and the infective stage starts eroding the mucosa, sucking the blood and the protein, leaving the animal weak and lead to abdominal pain, etc.

So, How should you deworm your pet?

Deworming is easy and can be done in your home itself. From the age of 6 wk to 12 wk, it should be done every 15<sup>th</sup> day, or every 2 wk.

From the age of 12 wk upto to 6 month, deworming once a month is done, and after the age of 6 month till the lifetime of the pet, deworm should be practiced every 3 month at least. It basically depends on the area you are living in and the exposure risk. If the exposure risks are high you should practice deworming your pet every month.

The choice of dewormer and how much to give can be prescribed by the veterinarian.

The basic mistakes pet parents make while deworming their pet!

Firstly, not taking note of whether the dewormer is properly engulfed by the pet or not, it's the basic tendency of the pet to vomit out the tablet's because of its taste.

Another common mistake is not giving the proper dose of the dewormer according to its weight or not following the proper schedule. Some people think it's only done once or twice a year which is untrue.

And lastly, pet owners with multiple pets don't deworm their pets at same time, leading to ineffective deworming.

What to expect after deworming your pet?

The pet may become lethargic for a day or two after having the tablets but it's normal, some pets also refuse to eat after having the medication but it's going to be okay soon.

You may be surprised to see worms in your dog's droppings after deworming them, but rest assured that this is normal and a sign of effective treatment, as some dewormers act by causing paralysis of the worm and finally their ejection from the body.

Healthy pets! Happy pets!.

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