

Importance of Deworming in Pets

Worms are parasites found inside the body of the pets. They can be found either in the intestine or stomach or even in other organs of the body. As the well-known saying goes, 'Prevention is always better than Cure', so deworming has to be done on a regular basis, to rule out the infection. Deworming can be done either by tablets, syrup or injection.

Signs of worms :

- Poor and stunted growth
- Allergies and skin infections
- Mild diarrhea/colic
- Large appetite/poor appetite
- Pot bellied
- Poor hair growth and a rough coat
- Bad breath
- Anemia
- Seizures and even death

Sources of Worms : There are various routes through which worms may enter an animal's body, the most important being through contact. The common sources are listed below :

- Contaminated food and water
- Eating stool of affected dog
- Eating rodents etc.
- Mother to pup by suckling
- Mother to pup inside the womb

Type of Worms : Roundworms, Hookworms, Tapeworms, Whipworms, Heartworms, Threadworms, Throatworms etc.

Deworming Schedule : To keep your pet free of worms infestation, a certain schedule has to be followed. This ensures that even if your pet gets infected accidentally, the routine deworming doses will prevent their multiplication and growth. Deworming should be done as follows:

For Pups:

- Every 2 weeks till 3 months of age
- Once a month from 3 to 6 months of age
- From 6 months onwards to be given every 6 months. If your pet is exposed to outdoor activities then deworming is advised every 3 months.

For Female Dogs

- Once prior to mating
- Once at parturition
- Lactating bitches and queens should be treated at the same time as the puppies and kittens.

Newly Acquired Animals

- Immediately, then repeat after 2 weeks, 1 month and every 3 months