

The ABC's of Intestinal Parasites

- A** **Anemia** – Animals with worms are often anemic as the worms absorb nutrients.
- B** **Baylisascaris procyonis** – Raccoon roundworm that can cause SERIOUS visceral and ocular larval migrans disease in humans.
- C** **Coccidia** – A single celled organism that is common in younger animals.
- D** **Diarrhea** – Intestinal parasites often cause this.
- E** **Eggs** – What we look for in fecal specimens under the microscope.
- F** **Fecal Flotation** – Recommended twice a year for cats and dogs to look for parasite eggs.
- G** **Giardia** – A single-celled flagellated organism found in standing water and streams/ponds.
- H** **Hookworms** – Can penetrate into skin of animals and people.
- I** **Inflammation** – Parasites can cause severe bowel inflammation and infection.
- J** **Just ask** – Ask your veterinarian if you have any questions.
- K** **Kill parasites** – Parasites can be killed with routine deworming.
- L** **Larval Migrans** – Aberrant migration of worm larvae through body tissue and organs.
- M** **Milbemycin oxime** – Active ingredient in Interceptor and Sentinel (Heartworm prevention) which also helps control roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms.
- N** **Nematode** – Roundworms and hookworms fall under this classification.
- O** **Organophosphate** – Many OTC worm medications contain this type of drug. These should only be used under the supervision of a veterinarian.
- P** **Panacur** – A dewormer used frequently at GAH. Panacur kills roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms.
- Q** **Queasy** – Parasites can make animals feel sick to their stomach.
- R** **Resistance** – Worms, like bacteria, can develop resistance to common dewormers.
- S** **Stool specimen** – aka “poop”, feces, etc. – required to test for intestinal parasites.
- T** **Tapeworms** – Usually diagnosed by finding “rice grains” on animal’s fur.
- U** **Unpleasant** – Worm infestations are unpleasant and unhealthy.
- V** **Vomit** – Dogs and cats will frequently vomit adult roundworms (looks like spaghetti).
- W** **Whipworms** – Often difficult to diagnose, but can cause severe disease in dogs.
- X** **eXterminate** – Help us stamp out intestinal parasites!
- Y** **Young** – Most pups are born with roundworms, and many acquire hookworm and whipworm infections within the first weeks of life.
- Z** **Zoonotic** – Diseases that can be spread from one species to another (e.g. from dogs to humans). Roundworms (dog, cat, and raccoon) and hookworms are zoonotic diseases.