

Zoonoses fact Sheet - Dog Hook worm

What are Hookworms?

- Hookworms are tiny parasitic worms that live inside the guts of dogs.
- They have sharp teeth.



How do hookworms make dogs sick?



- They bite the insides of the dogs and make them bleed.
- Dogs with hookworms have bloody gna, pale gums, and are often skinny but have round pot bellies



How do Hookworms make people sick?

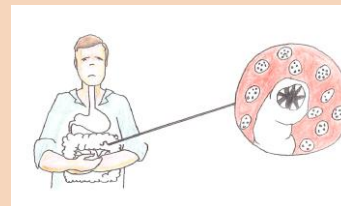
Skin rash – Cutaneous larval migrans

- Young worms on the ground can get into people's skin.
- They burrow around in the skin. The red lines in the photo are the tracks of the worm.
- Cases like this are mostly seen in white people working in communities.
- These people did not make antibodies to dog hookworm when they were younger.
- Most people who were raised in communities will have antibodies to dog hookworm.
- These antibodies stop the hookworm before it gets this bad.



Gut pain – eosinophilic enteritis

- Not very much is known about this sickness.
- It was first discovered by doctors working in Townsville.
- So far this sickness has only been seen in non-Indigenous people.
- We do not know enough about it to know if it is a problem for Indigenous people.



How do we stop dog hookworm?



- **Ivermectin, Moxidectin** or shop-bought **all-wormer tablets** given every 3 months will kill dog hookworm in adult dogs
- Pups should be wormed from 10 days old in tropical areas where hookworm breeds up quickly. Puppy syrups and all wormer tablets can be sold at the shop.
- **Dry clean yards** helps kill the worm eggs before they infect a person or a dog.
- **Washing hands** stops the eggs getting into the body.
- **Desexing programs** mean that the amount of pups being born are dramatically and permanently reduced. Pups are less resistant to roundworm and spread the disease more quickly.



Source: **Dr Sam Phelan, Dog Health Programs in Indigenous communities, an Environmental Health Practitioner's Guide, AMRRIC, 2010**