




Zoonoses Fact Sheet: Dog Hookworm

<p>What are hookworms?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hookworms are tiny parasitic worms that live inside the guts of dogs. They have sharp teeth. 	
<p>How do hookworms make dogs sick?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	
<p>How do hookworms make people sick?</p>		
<p>Skin rash – Cutaneous larval migrans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Gut pain – eosinophilic enteritis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
<p>How do we stop hookworm?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 help 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 is 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

For more information please contact us on (08) 8948 1768, email us at info@amrric.org or visit the AMRRIC website www.amrric.org