
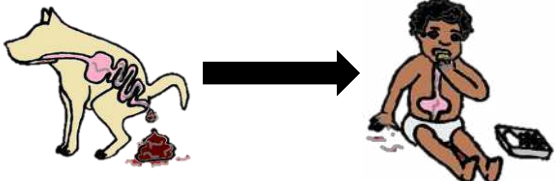



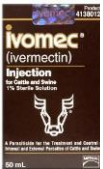




Zoonoses Fact Sheet: Roundworms

<p>What are Roundworms?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roundworms are parasitic worms living in the guts of dogs. ○ Roundworms are the biggest worms in the dogs gut. ○ When a puppy is wormed for the first time the owner may find a large number of long yellowish worms in the poo.
<p>How do we get roundworms?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Humans can be infected by accidentally eating the eggs which are passed in dog poo. The worm eggs are very small. They can live in the dirt and be transferred to people's hands, often to children who play on the ground. ○ When someone with the roundworm germs on their hands eats food without washing their hands, the roundworms are passed to that person's gut. ○ The roundworm eggs then hatch in the gut. ○ Many people have antibodies to roundworm which stops them getting sick ○ But if lots of eggs hatch in the gut, or the person is young, very old, or not well, the baby worms then move through the gut wall and into the person's body. ○ They are picked up by the blood and moved around the body. They can get stuck in parts of the body such as the liver, brain and eyes. ○ In the places where the roundworms get stuck, they form a cyst. 
<p>How do roundworms people sick?</p> 	<p>Roundworms can make people very sick. Examples of sickness include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visceral larval migrans: If a roundworm egg hatches in a person, the baby worms travel through the body, causing coughing, fever, stomach pain, rash, headaches, wheezing, or difficulty sleeping. These can last for a few weeks. ○ Ocular larval migrans: If the baby worm gets into the eye, it can make a cyst which causes a green cycle to appear in the eye. This can make children blind. <p>Can roundworms make dogs sick?</p> <p>Roundworms do not usually cause problems for adult dogs but can be a big problem for puppies. If a puppy has lots of worms, its gut can get fully blocked. When this happens the pup can get very sick and die. Early signs of roundworm infection are skinny puppies with pot bellies and dull coats.</p> 
<p>How to we prevent roundworm infection?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ivermectin or shop bought all-wormer pills kill the worms in the dogs' gut ○ 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 reduce the number of pups born. 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