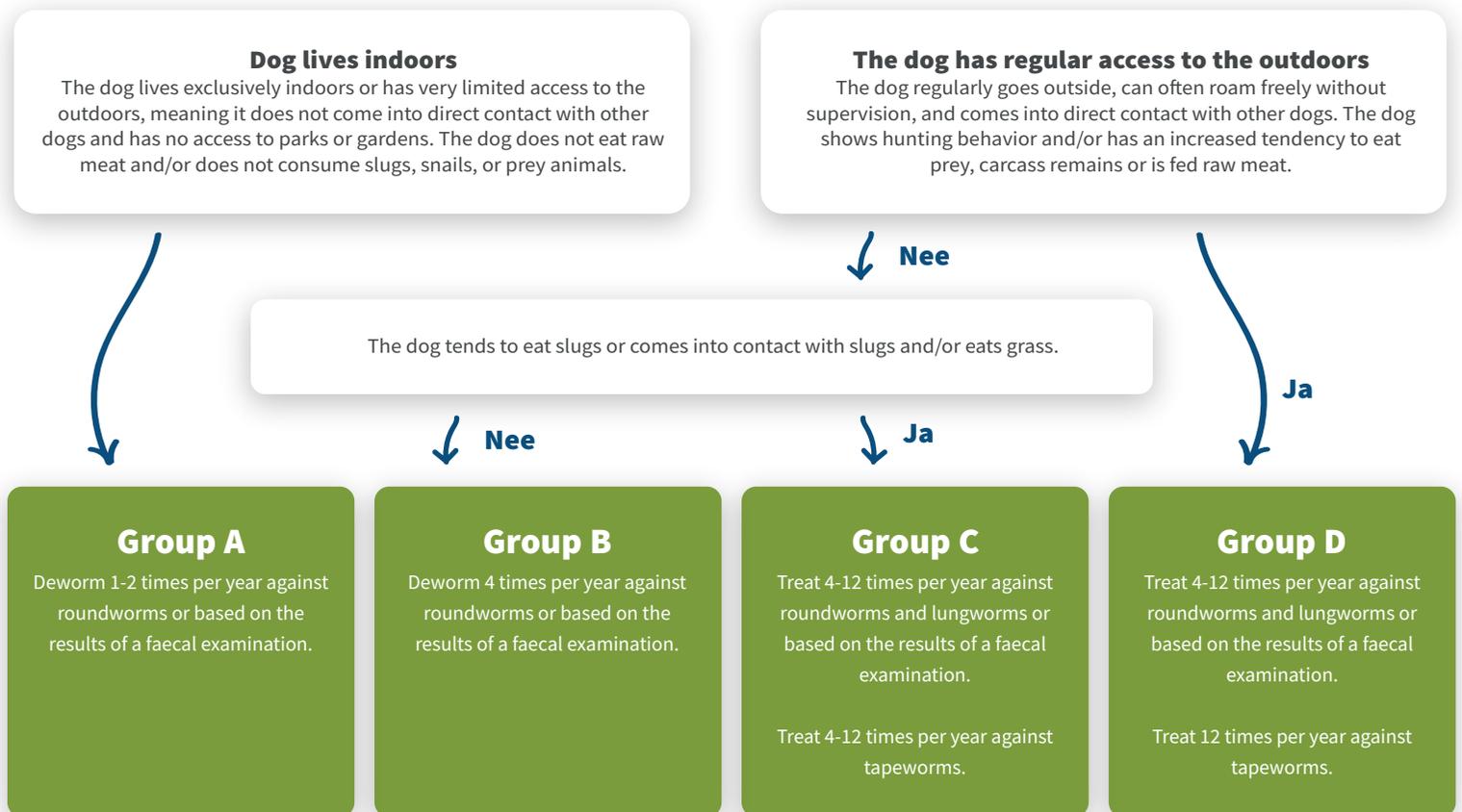


How often should you deworm your DOG?



Preventive measures

- If tapeworm segments are seen around the anus or in the stool, your dog should also be dewormed against tapeworms using praziquantel and start a flea treatment.
- Having your dog's stool examined regularly is a good alternative to the 'standard' deworming recommendation.
- **Important hygiene measures for people and animals:**
 1. Wash your hands thoroughly (especially children's hands), particularly before eating.
 2. Wash fruit and vegetables thoroughly before consumption.
 3. Do not feed raw meat. Always provide fresh drinking water.
 4. Cover sandpits when they are not in use.
 5. Clean up your dog's stool immediately, whether in the garden or while out walking, and dispose of it in the general waste bin — not on the compost heap! Wash your hands afterwards.

Additional treatment

- **Treatment against roundworms:**
 - Puppies should be dewormed from the age of 2 weeks, with the treatment repeated every 2 weeks until 2 weeks after weaning. If there is a persistent increased risk of infection (for example, in puppy playgroups), monthly treatments should continue until the puppy is six months old.
 - Deworm a nursing female at the time of the puppies' first treatment (2 weeks after birth).
 - To reduce transmission to the puppies, pregnant females can be treated with macrocyclic lactones (for example, Milbemycin) around days 40 and 55 of pregnancy, or with fenbendazole daily from day 40 of pregnancy until the second day after giving birth.
 - Dogs with an increased risk of infection (such as those involved in sports, shows, competitions, or kept in kennels) should be treated twice, up to 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after the event. In kennels, deworming should be done monthly or based on the results of a monthly faecal examination.
 - Working dogs (therapy, rescue, police) should be dewormed monthly according to the decision chart, or, when exposure to fox tapeworm is low, treated based on the results of a monthly faecal examination.

- Dogs living with small children (under 5-6 years old), immunocompromised individuals, or elderly people (YOPIs) should, according to the decision chart, be dewormed monthly, or have a monthly faecal examination and be treated based on the results.

Treatment against lungworm/French heartworm

- Dogs that tend to eat slugs and/or snails and grass should, according to the decision chart, for example, based on the frequency of slug/snail ingestion and the level of environmental contamination, be treated preventively on a monthly basis.

Treatment against tapeworms:

- Dogs that travel to or are imported from areas where the fox tapeworm occurs should be treated 4 weeks after the start of the trip and then monthly until 4 weeks after returning home. After import, deworm immediately.
- For dogs that eat raw meat, carcass remains, or prey animals, or that hunt, it is recommended to deworm every 4 weeks or based on faecal examinations every 2-3 months.
- Deworm if there is a flea infestation.
- Deworm if a tapeworm infection is detected.

Treatment against heartworm:

- Dogs living in areas where heartworm is present should receive monthly preventive treatment against larvae during the mosquito season, continuing up to 30 days after the end of the mosquito season.

Travel and transport

- Dogs that travel to or are imported from areas where heartworm occurs should be treated no later than 30 days after departure and then monthly until 30 days after returning home.
- During the mosquito season, treat within 30 days of arrival, then continue monthly until 30 days after returning home.
- Import from areas where heartworm occurs: Treat immediately after import. Test for heartworm at the time of entry and retest after 6 months.

If you would like to get more information about worming from our veterinarian, please visit <https://www.vetsend.co.uk/wormers>



Explanation about different worm types

Worms are parasites that can live in different areas of the animal's body. Dogs and cats can get infected at any time, no matter the age. They could even get infected with worms that pose a risk against humans. The important worm types are round, tape, and hookworms whose adult worms live in the small intestine. Heartworms live in the pulmonary artery and adult lungworms live in the vessels between the heart and lungs. Some worms can pose a risk to human health.

Roundworms

Roundworms are one of the most common worms found in dogs and cats. They are called roundworms because of their round shape. You can find these worms in the intestines, airways, under the skin, in cavities of the nose, and in large heart vessels. The most common roundworms found in dogs and cats in the UK are the *Toxocara canis*, and *Toxocara cati*.

Heartworms

Heartworm is the name of the parasite *Dirofilaria immitis*. This parasite can cause infections in dogs and cats. They are called 'heartworms' because they live in the pulmonary artery of the heart. Thankfully, these heartworm infections are not present in the United Kingdom, however, they could be found in animals that are from, or have been to South Europe.

Tapeworms

Tapeworms have an indirect life cycle. Adult tapeworms live in the intestines of the definitive host (for example, a dog or cat). They get there when young tapeworms (also known as hydatid cyst) settle themselves in the intermediate host (like sheep, fleas, rabbits, or mice). The dog consumes part of this intermediate host, which causes the cyst to settle in the dog's gastrointestinal tract. Here, they develop into adult tapeworms. In the definitive host, the tapeworms are not likely to cause major issues.

French Heartworm

French Heartworm (lungworm)

French heartworm is the name of the parasitic worm *Angiostrongylus Vasorum*. This parasite is able to infect dogs. This worm lives in the vessels between the heart and lungs, hence the name. It is also called lungworm because the infection can lead to severe lung damage. This parasite is becoming more common in the United Kingdom. Dogs can become infected when they eat slugs or prey animals that carry this worm.

Lungworm

In addition to the French heartworm, dogs can also be affected by the true lungworm, *Oslerus osleri*. This parasite forms nodules in the larger airways of dogs and causes symptoms such as a dry cough, coughing during exercise or with temperature changes, as well as shortness of breath, weight loss, and poor appetite in young dogs. Dogs become infected by eating the faeces of infected dogs.

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