

Common Intestinal Parasites

Parasite	Transmission	Time From Infection to a Positive Stool Result	Notes and Special Considerations
Roundworms	<p>Transmission from mother in utero or while nursing</p> <p>Ingestion of eggs from environment</p> <p>Ingestion of infected prey animals</p>	2 to 4 weeks	<p>Most monthly preventatives will treat and control</p> <p>Adult worms are “spaghetti-like” in appearance</p> <p>Heavy infections may lead to adult worms in stool/vomit</p> <p>* Zoonotic risk (i.e. people can become infected) – proper hygienic practices required</p>
Hookworms	<p>Transmission from mother while nursing</p> <p>Ingestion of eggs from environment</p> <p>Skin penetration</p>	2 to 3 weeks	<p>Most monthly preventatives will treat and control</p> <p>Heavy infection may cause dark, bloody stool</p> <p>* Zoonotic risk; caution when walking barefoot or gardening without gloves – proper hygienic practices required</p>
Tapeworms	<p>Ingestion of intermediate host only (primarily fleas, rodents and other small, prey animals)</p>	2 to 3 weeks	<p>Intermediate host needs to be eliminated to control infection (i.e. treat and control flea infestations)</p> <p>“Rice-like” segments may be seen (in stool, on rectum or tail, and/or on bedding)</p> <p>Stool check often only positive with heavy infections</p>
Whipworms	<p>Ingestion of eggs from environment</p>	10 to 12 weeks	<p>Infective eggs are very resistant and can persist in environment for years</p> <p>Transmission between species not a concern</p>
Coccidia	<p>Ingestion of cysts (infective stage of parasite) from environment</p> <p>Ingestion of infected prey animals</p>	7 to 10 days	<p>Cysts can persist in environment</p> <p>Transmission between species not a concern</p>
Giardia	<p>Ingestion of cysts (infective stage of parasite) from environment</p>	5 to 7 days	<p>Cysts can survive months in environment, especially in cool water; re-infection after treatment is common without proper prevention</p> <p>* Zoonotic, however, risk from pets to people very low</p>

*environmental transmission = consumption of soil, grass, animal feces, drinking from puddles and/or licking feet after being outside

*proper hygienic practices = washing hands well and frequently, wearing shoes/gloves ; picking up stool as soon and as frequently as possible