

Hookworm prevention and treatment

Industry Practice Guide 20.0



Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice

Relevant Standards

3.14 Participants must administer an effective internal and external parasite control program (e.g. gastrointestinal worm, heartworm, ear mites, fleas and ticks) which is age appropriate to all greyhounds in their care.

3.15 Worming and parasite treatments must be used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or at the direction of a veterinarian.

5.23 Visitors to all greyhound housing areas must be provided with access to hot and cold water hand washing facilities with soap, or hand sanitising stations.

How do greyhounds get hookworm?

- Oral ingestion from grooming feet, sniffing faeces or contaminated soil
- Through the skin
- In utero through the mother's placenta
- Through the mother's milk

What are the symptoms?

- Intermittent bouts of diarrhoea (can be bloody) or soft stools
- Pale gums
- Weakness
- Weight loss
- Coughing
- Skin irritation and itching
- Dull and dry coats

How do you protect your greyhound?

- It is essential to consult with your veterinarian for advice
- Rotate and combine different worming products, using protocols advised by your veterinarian
- Prompt disposal of dog faeces
- Puppies should be administered a veterinary-approved anthelmintic product. Current recommendations for puppies are:

AGE	WHEN TO TREAT
New born puppies (Birth to 12 weeks)	Treat every 2 weeks from 2 weeks of age
Puppies - growing (From 12 weeks to 6 months of age)	Treat monthly

Greyhound owners and trainers across New South Wales should always exercise vigilance about hookworms – the most common intestinal worm to affect canines in Australia.

Canine hookworms are an intestinal parasite of the gastrointestinal tract which cause chronic inflammation to the gut tissue.

Hookworms can also cause life-threatening anaemia, death of infant and young pups, and impair a greyhound's ability to uptake dietary nutrition, prevent a greyhound from performing at its best and leave your greyhound vulnerable to secondary infections and inflammatory disease.

Resistance to common worming treatments is becoming a significant problem in controlling hookworm especially in greyhound populations.



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How do you protect your greyhound?

- Nursing female greyhounds should be dewormed when their puppies are dewormed
- Wash your hands frequently when around greyhounds
- Incorporating the use of faecal egg counts into your worming program is recommended to ensure the treatments used are effective.

How do you treat your greyhound?

- If you have reason to believe that your greyhound has hookworm, taking immediate action is vital to avoid serious symptoms
- Collect samples for faecal egg count to take to your veterinarian and administer a deworming product as advised by your veterinarian
- Disinfect greyhound bedding/toys
- Disinfect kennel surfaces
- In severe cases, your greyhound may need to be hospitalised for supportive treatment such as intravenous fluids or a blood transfusion.

Checking with Race Well

If you are unsure if a particular worming medication or supplement is safe to administer to your greyhound, an easy way to check is by using the free Race Well substance validator smartphone app.

Race Well has been designed as a fast and straightforward way to determine if a particular product is safe to administer to your greyhound.

The app can be downloaded on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. You can download the app by scanning the QR codes below.

