Info shared by Pitbull SA.

Manjaro APBT kennel.

South Africa.

My Website www.pitbullsa.co.za

My E mail "manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za"

My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"

My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"

My mobile +27827838280.

Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.

How do I know if my dog has worms?

The short answer: it can be challenging.
Some intestinal worms can be seen with the naked eye; others can't.
Dogs with worm infestations may have one or more of the following symptoms:
Diarrhea that may or may not be bloody
Vomiting
Weight loss
Poor coat condition
However, sometimes the presence of intestinal worms causes no noticeable symptoms.
The worms can also lay dormant in your dog's body for long periods of time.
The following is a short primer on four common types of intestinal worms.

Hookworms.
Hookworms attach to the intestinal wall and suck the blood of the host.

Hookworms are primarily transmitted fecal-orally to animals, meaning your dog may eat contaminated feces or dirt, or he might walk through contaminated soil, then lick his paws and ingest the eggs.
Puppies can acquire hookworm from an infected mother's milk.
A puppy that acquires hookworms can become lethargic, weak, malnourished and anemic.
It isn't uncommon for young puppy/dog to die from a hookworm infestation.
Infected adult dogs may show symptoms of poor appetite and weight loss. Chronic hookworm infestation also is a common cause of illness in older dogs.
Humans can also acquire a hookworm infection, typically by picking up the eggs or larvae on the skin from soil contaminated by infected wild animal or pet poop.
Hookworm larvae have the ability to penetrate human skin, and they aren't visible to the naked eye.
To prevent a hookworm infestation, it's important to get rid of any potentially infective feces from wild or stray animals around your property that might tempt your dog.
It's also a good idea to keep your dog away from the poop of other animals while you're walking outdoors or hiking.

Roundworms.
Roundworms are large and spaghetti-like in appearance, and they can create a full-blown infestation in your pet before you even know they're there.
By the time you see signs of roundworms in your dog's feces or vomit, he's overrun with them.

Roundworm

It's important not to wait until you actually see the worms to alert you to an infestation.

If you suspect your dog has been exposed, you should collect a stool sample and drop it by your veterinarian's office for analysis.

Dogs typically acquire roundworms by eating infected feces.

The infection can also be passed from a female to her unborn litter across the placenta.

The pups or kittens develop their own infection while still in the uterus and are born positive for roundworm.

Puppies with roundworm often have potbellies and poor growth.

If not treated quickly, a severe infestation can block the intestines and cause death.

That's why I recommend checking fecal samples at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 weeks of age.

Tapeworms.

Tapeworms are flat-shaped, with a head, neck and many body segments called proglottids.

The head has suckers and hooks that allow the tapeworm to deeply embed into the walls of the small intestine.
The worms can range from under an inch to several feet (yes, feet!) in length.
Tapeworm segments are often seen near the anus of an infected dog, and segments that have been recently passed out of the body may still be moving.
Your dog can acquire a tapeworm infestation by eating part or all of an intermediate host (e.g., birds, fish, reptiles and rats) carrying tapeworm eggs, larvae or cysts.

Note! Fleas and lice also harbor tapeworm eggs.
The most common method of transmission is through ingestion of adult fleas, birds, rodents, rabbits or through scavenging.
Free-roaming dogs with access to freshly killed wild or domestic animals are at increased risk of acquiring tapeworms, as are animals with heavy lice and/or flea infestations.
Dogs with tapeworms often show no signs of discomfort.
When symptoms do occur, they can include itchiness around the anus, licking of the anal and perianal area, butt scooting, weight loss without loss of appetite, increased appetite without weight gain, poor coat or skin condition, distended or painful abdomen, diarrhea, lethargy and irritability.
Rarely, a heavy infestation of adult tapeworms causes partial or complete intestinal blockage, which is a true medical emergency.
These parasites can be difficult to diagnose, and sometimes the only noticeable symptom is what looks like grains of white rice (tapeworm segments) stuck to or crawling through the fur around a dog's rear end.

Tapeworm

Whipworms.

Whipworms are common in dogs and can only be infected by ingesting whipworm eggs from soil or other substrates containing eggs.

In the small intestine, larvae hatch from ingested eggs and burrow into the mucosal lining.

From two to 10 days later, they move on to the cecum and grow into adult worms.

The eggs are not infectious when passed in feces.

They need several weeks in soil to develop into infective larvae inside their shells.

A dog eats contaminated soil or objects in the soil and the cycle of infection begins.

Adult whipworms look like tiny pieces of thread, with one end enlarged.

They are rarely seen in in feces.

Many pets show no signs of illness with a whipworm infestation.

Symptoms when they do occur can include bloody diarrhea, dehydration, weight loss, anemia and even death in severe cases.

Re-infection with whipworm from contaminated environments is a significant concern.
The eggs are extremely resilient and resistant to most cleaning methods and even freezing temperatures.
They can be dried out with strong agents like agricultural lime, but the preferred method is to replace contaminated soil with new soil or another substrate.
Regularly picking up poop from your yard and other areas your dog frequents will help reduce the risk of further contamination of soil.

Choose targeted treatment and avoid combination dewormers.
As with any illness in your dog, the earlier an intestinal worm infestation is diagnosed and treated, the better the outcome.
Many veterinarians include a stool check as part of the wellness exam.

If yours doesn't, you can request it.
It's important to note that tapeworms can be difficult to diagnose with routine stool sample tests, so be sure to keep an eye out for the appearance of "rice" either in your dog's poop or in the fur around his rear end.
It's very important that your veterinarian identifies the precise type of worm that has invaded your pet's intestinal tract.

I recommend avoiding combination treatments that claim to kill and/or prevent a variety of worms and other internal parasites.
They are typically prescribed for monthly use.
More is not better when it comes to drugs for your dog.
If your dog has whipworms, for example, treat the whipworms specifically, and only long enough to clear the infection.
Some integrative veterinarians offer natural dewormers for certain kinds of intestinal worm infestations.
I have tried them all and unfortunately, sometimes they work, and sometimes they don't.

For instance, food-grade diatomaceous earth kills tapeworm segments, but not the deeply embedded head, so you may think you've killed the entire worm, only to find out later that your dog is chronically infected, which can lead to chronic GI inflammation and dysbiosis.
It's fine to try natural deworming first, but making sure these resilient parasites are truly eliminated, regardless of what you use, is of utmost importance to avoid chronic, avoidable GI problems.

Worms (internal parasites)

The study of parasites is called parasitology.
It is an important discipline because internal parasites cause death and disease worth billions of rands in animals each year.
These parasites have highly evolved life cycles that make their elimination impossible.
In addition, many internal parasites affect people with the potential for serious consequences.
Dogs (especially puppies) are routinely infected with internal parasites, sometimes without apparent evidence of the infestation until it is **too late**.
This means that a dog can have internal parasites even though the faecal sample is negative.
Fortunately their is effective medications to treat most parasites.
Many of the medications we use to treat internal parasites, called "anthelmintics" treat more than one parasite/worm.
The advent of these broad-spectrum anthelminitcs makes treatment much more effective.
It is recommend all dogs get a treatment for internal parasites regularly – your vet will give you a schedule –n as early as on 14 weeks.
Because of different worms, it will be important to know more about them and how to treat worm in your dogs.

See information on this website about:-

Tapeworms
Roundworms

Hookworms
Whipworms
Coccidia
Giardia

These internal parasites differ from external parasites, which usually affect the skin and ears of dogs.

Symptoms.
Symptoms manifested by dogs that are infected with internal parasites can vary, and depend on a dogs age, nutritional status, parasite load, duration of infestation, etc.
One of the most common symptoms of internal parasitism is diarrhoea.

Other symptoms include poor appetite, lack of energy, potbelly, presenting "thin, coughing, and abdominal swelling and discomfort.
Some dogs do not show any symptoms while others can die from their infestation.
Internal parasites tend to infest older and younger dogs.
Internal parasites can also make a dog more susceptible to other diseases.

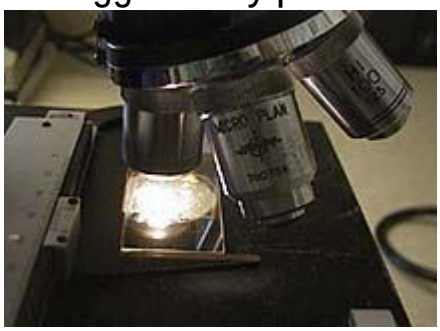
It is not uncommon for a puppy with "Parvo virus" to have internal parasites simultaneously.
Due to the prevalence of internal parasites in dogs, their lack of symptoms in some cases, and the potential for humans to become infested also, **your dogs** faeces should be checked by your vet for internal parasites twice a year.
Dogs that are outside and exposed to other animals and dogs should have their faeces checked more often.
Routine worming should be performed on all dogs, even if the stool check for parasites is negative.

Diagnosis.

The majority of internal parasites are diagnosed by seeing worms in their feases or by microscopic examination of the faeces for eggs that are released by the adult female parasite in your dogs intestine.
The number of eggs released in a given faeces sample can be variable, sometimes there aren't any even though your dog has an adult female parasite in its intestines.
This means that a negative faecal report does not guarantee that your dog is free from internal parasites.
In many cases, your vet need to run numerous samples to feel comfortable that your dog is free of internal parasites.
In some cases your vet will treat for a specific parasite, even on a negative faeces sample, when they feel there is a likelihood of infestation, because some internal parasites eggs are notoriously hard to detect.
In some parasites, a diagnosis is made by observation of the mature parasite in your dogs faeces or during an autopsy in your dogs intestines.
This is especially true for Tapeworms.
Tapeworm eggs are difficult to detect during microscopic faeces analysis, so observation of the actual worm is how they are routinely diagnosed.
The two primary methods of faeces analysis are direct observation and faeces flotation done by your vet.
In direct observation, a smear is made of some faeces material on a microscope slide and the slide is analysed by the vet for parasite eggs.
It is used to detect eggs that do not show up well during the faeces flotation.
Faeces flotation is the most accurate way to detect most internal parasites.
A sample of fresh faeces is put into a special solution that causes any eggs that might be present to float to the top and adhere to a cover slip.
The cover slip is put on a microscope slide for analysis.

This concentration of eggs substantially increases the chance of finding any eggs that might be present.
Some eggs, notably “Tapeworm eggs”, dissolve during this process and might be undetected.
This is the reason you can see Tapeworms in your dogs stool yet the faeces analysis came back negative.
Place fresh faeces in a plastic container for your vet to test.
Once the sample is obtained it should be kept cool until it will be analysed.
Analysis should be within 12 hours to increase accuracy.
The flotation solution has been added to the faeces container and a cover slip has been placed on the top to collect any eggs that float to the surface after a 5 minute wait.

The cover slip is put on a microscope slide and carefully scanned for the eggs of any parasite.



Treatment.
Internal parasites (various types) have very sophisticated life cycles that can make treatment difficult.
Some of these life cycles involve mandatory maturation processes in other animals, including insects.
t is important to follow these treatment regimens precisely.

Some parasites can only be controlled, not eliminated. In these cases, it is important to check your dogs faeces routinely and to use medication regally on a long term or permanent basis.
There are new treatments for internal parasites that are very broad spectrum.
They kill a wide variety of parasites/worms, and are the medications vets use as a routine wormer.

A new product, called **"Revolution"** will kill fleas, ear mites and internal parasites.