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Dog Parasites: More Than Just a Nuisance

Parasites are prevalent in dogs but can often go unnoticed. It can be easy to overlook the importance of preventing parasites, which can infect our pets through various means, even if they do not interact with other animals. For example, roundworms can be picked up from sidewalks, ticks can be hiding in the grass, and heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes, which can even enter our homes.

Once these pests find our pets, they can be more than just a nuisance and have the potential to cause serious disease. Some parasites (such as those that can cause Lyme disease) can only be detected through tests from a veterinarian and, once detected, may take significant time, energy, and cost to resolve. Understanding these hidden risks and taking steps to prevent infection are key to keeping pets healthy.

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Fleas & Ticks: Tiny Disease Transporters

Fleas are best known for the skin irritation they can cause. Flea saliva is particularly itch-inducing, and even just a few fleas can cause severe allergies in sensitive dogs,¹ but the full risk of fleas runs more than skin deep. Fleas can harbor tapeworm larvae, which are passed to pets when a flea is swallowed during grooming.^{1,2} In addition, flea infestations can be quite frustrating and time-consuming due to the numerous eggs a single flea can lay.^{1,3}

Ticks can carry ≥ 15 different diseases that they can pass to dogs through their bites, including Lyme disease.⁴ Lyme disease can cause chronic joint pain and renal problems in dogs and is also the most common tick-borne disease of humans in the United States, affecting an estimated 476,000 Americans every year.^{5,6} Ticks can also easily fall off pets and attach to humans.

Intestinal Worms

Roundworms and hookworms are parasites of the gastrointestinal tract. Early symptoms can be subtle, but intestinal worms can lead to vomiting, diarrhea, and anemia as infection progresses.⁷

SIMPARICA TRIO® IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

See Full Prescribing Information at SimparicaTrioPI.com. Use with caution in dogs with a history of seizures. Simparica Trio contains sarolaner, a member of the isoxazoline class, which has been associated with neurologic adverse reactions including tremors, ataxia, and seizures in dogs with or without a history of neurologic disorders. The safe use of Simparica Trio has not been evaluated in breeding, pregnant, or lactating dogs. The most frequently reported adverse reactions in clinical trials were vomiting and diarrhea.

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Heartworms: Deadly & Costly

Mosquitoes transmit heartworm disease to dogs through their bites. The worms travel through the body, ultimately settling down and maturing in the blood vessels of the lungs. When their numbers become too great, the worms can run out of space and block the flow of blood from the heart, earning their name “heartworms.” It is easy to imagine how even a few 12-inch worms can cause serious, potentially fatal, disease when located in the lungs and heart.⁸ Treating heartworm disease can be costly and difficult, and even with treatment, effects of the disease can be life-long.^{8,9}

An Ounce of Prevention

Year-round prevention is the simple solution to controlling these problematic invaders. An effective prevention strategy must target all 3 of these categories of parasites (ie, heartworm disease, ticks and fleas, hookworms and roundworms) to help reduce the potential for their associated risks in a convenient monthly chew.

Simparica Trio® (sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel chewable tablets) offers this triple protection in a single product. The once-monthly, pork liver-flavored chew contains 3 different active ingredients that, together, protect dogs against heartworm disease, ticks and fleas, and roundworms and hookworms. Studies to support FDA approval of Simparica Trio showed that 1 dose provided 100% protection against heartworm disease.⁹ It kills fleas before they have a chance to lay eggs in the home and also kills deer ticks, which can pass Lyme disease, often before they can pass the disease to the dog. To top it off, almost 92% of dogs eat the chew willingly, with no coaxing or tricking required.¹⁰

When a single, monthly, 3-in-1 combination chew is all it takes to protect your dog from the most common parasites and give yourself peace of mind, there’s no doubt that prevention is the best medicine.

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