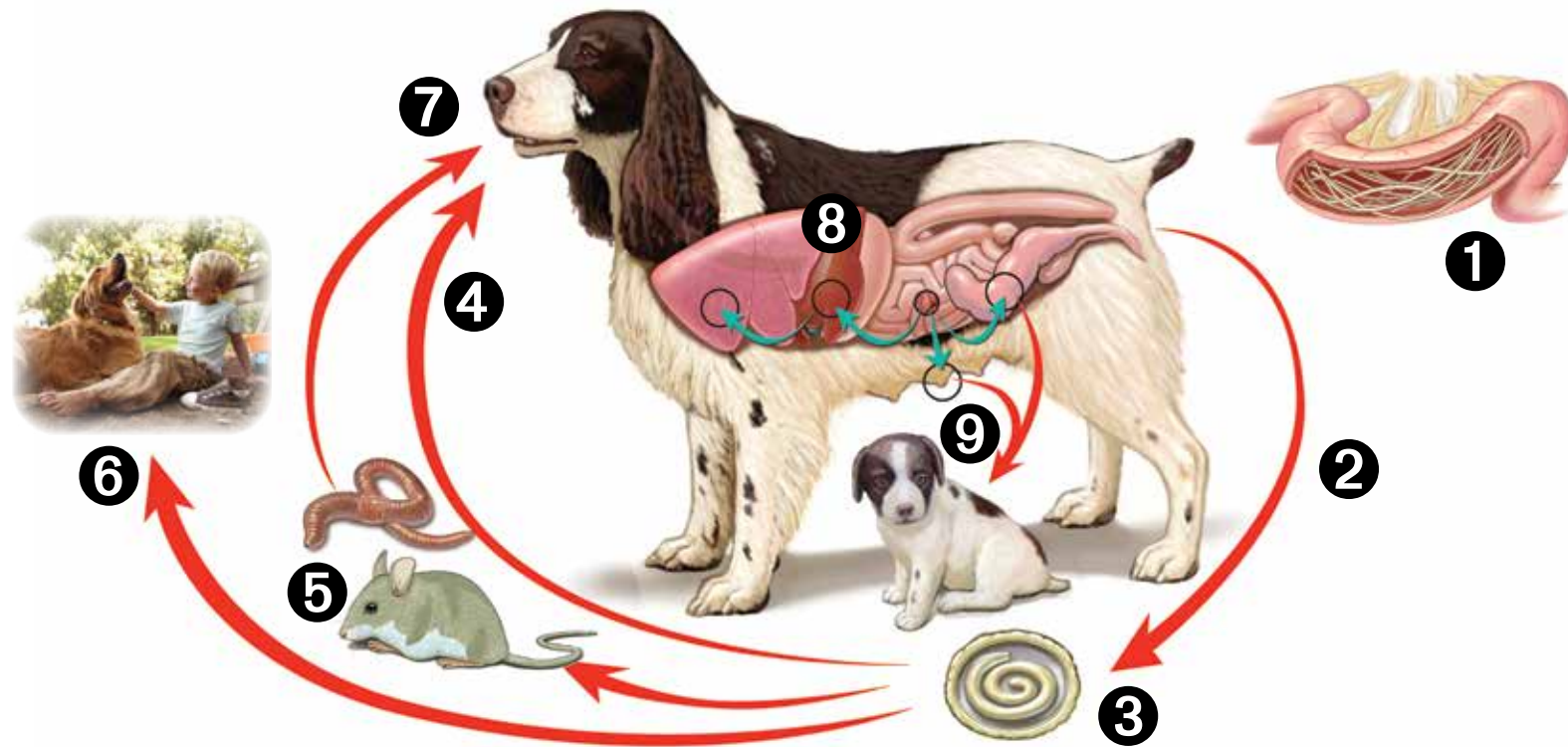


Understanding the Roundworm (*Toxocara canis*) life cycle



- 1 Approximately 2-4 weeks after infection, adult roundworms release eggs into the dog's small intestine.
- 2 Eggs are passed in the feces.
- 3 Eggs develop in the environment and become infective 2-4 weeks after being passed in feces.
- 4 Infective eggs may be ingested by your pet, directly from the environment.
- 5 Paratenic hosts, such as earthworms and field mice, ingest infective eggs and become carriers of larvae that arrest in somatic tissues.
- 6 Humans may accidentally consume infective roundworm eggs, which can lead to the development of a zoonotic disease affecting the eye, brain and/or other organs.

- 7 Infected vertebrate paratenic host is consumed, and larvae are released into the dog's small intestine, where they become adult worms.
- 8 Larvae are released from infective eggs, burrow through the intestinal wall, move through the dog's liver and lungs, are coughed up, swallowed and mature within the small intestine. During this migration, some may stop development and arrest in the somatic tissues.
- 9 Puppies may become infected by larvae through the placenta during pregnancy or the milk during nursing.

Year-round roundworm protection is important

These parasites may exist continuously in the environment, even during cold weather periods, and can ultimately reinfect your dog.