



Greyhounds & Hookworm

Important Questions:

What is Prison Greyhounds recommended treatment for hookworm?

During infestation time: Use Drontal Plus XL (35kg) twice, exactly 14 days apart. At the same time, also use Advocate (aka Advantage Multi) every 14 days to kill the eggs/larva in the tissue that the Drontal Plus cannot reach. This protects against the larval leak as the eggs hatch from being imbedded in the tissue. It takes multiple applications of the Advocate to build up a resistance in the tissue to the hookworm infection, so by increasing the dosage frequency, we accomplish this. It is safe, but you will return to monthly-only doses of Advocate once the hookworm has been confirmed to be gone by a fecal.

Can I use a different Heartworm Preventive instead of Advocate (aka Advantage Multi) when I am also treating for Hookworm?

Yes. If you want to use Interceptor or Sentinel instead of Advocate (aka Advantage Multi) you can use them with the same successful results. Please note however that Sentinel is being phased out. Do not use Trifexis, which has produced various bad side effects on otherwise healthy dogs. Many veterinarians pulled Trifexis off their shelves. Why use a potentially risky product when there are other safer, effective ones out there? (Reported side effects of Trifexis are vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, depression, lethargy in dogs that were not showing these symptoms before dosage.) Also, do not use Heartguard instead of the other 3, it has anecdotally proven ineffective against hookworm. (See veterinarian's note below) Several of the veterinarians that we consulted confirmed that it will not kill hookworm. After the risk of hookworm is totally gone, you may choose to return to the less expensive Heartguard.

Why might I see blood in the stools, or blood in vomit?

While the greyhound has hookworm, you can expect some blood with his stools. (We have seen it in vomit, but not as often.) Don't panic! This is an encouraging sign that your treatment is working. The hookworms anchor themselves to the intestinal lining so they can feed on tissue fluids and blood, while injecting an anti-coagulant substance. This substance (found in hookworm saliva) can cause continued bleeding for a while after the hookworm has detached from the feeding site (during the process of dying).

What can I do about diarrhea, loose stools?

If the stool is too loose, you can add canned pumpkin (pure pumpkin only, not pie filler). Or buy unflavored Psyllium husk powder at Walgreens (Wal-Mucil) in the same section as the flavored Metamucil. Mix 1 heaping tablespoon of Wal-Mucil with a tall glass of water and pour generously on top of kibble at every meal. Results are immediate with the next poop cycle. Be sure to offer your greyhound more water during treatment times if using Wal-Mucil. Metronidazole also helps to soothe & protect the gastro tract. Keep the yard cleaned up of dog waste. The added advantage to the Wal-Mucil is that it 'gels' the poop together so yard cleanup is much easier than with an untreated, very loose stool. The gelled poop rolls easily onto the cleanup tool.

A note on Panacur:

Most veterinarians in our Indy area are familiar with, and prefer, Panacur to fight hookworm. You can use Panacur, but we predict that the results will be unsuccessful, unless you also add Drontal and the Advantage Multi/Sentinel/Interceptor at the dosage frequency described above. After consulting with several vets, and with much anecdotal evidence, here is our best educated guess on why. While in the racing kennels, these greyhounds are dosed every 2 weeks for hookworm with Panacur or Ivermectin; month after month, year after year. We presume that the hookworm develops immunity to the medicine. Yet the greyhounds were never exposed to Drontal Plus, nor to the other meds we suggest. That is a huge advantage in your favor because the hookworms are not immune to it! Hookworm can only be eradicated after the greyhound leaves the racing kennel and moves into a home environment. You have to get them away from heavy exposure on a daily basis. That means the time after retirement is the best time to treat them.

If your veterinarian would like to consult with Dr. Ken Simpson of Monon Animal Center, he is open to confirming our treatment plan. Below is an email that Dr. Ken Simpson gave me permission to circulate.

Hi Mary,

As we discussed earlier today, your foster greyhound's fecal was positive for hookworm eggs. After discussing our recommended protocol and Mary's experience with greyhounds, I am recommending we treat foster greyhound Deal with Advantage Multi once monthly. Deal may have a problem getting rid of hookworms because of a syndrome called "larval leak", unless there is a chance he is coprophagic. Advantage Multi is a good option (in addition to your Drontal Plus treatments) because that product keeps moxidectin levels continuously in the body rather than intermittently. In larval leak syndrome, it seems that recurrent and persistent hookworm infection results in some encysted larvae that periodically get released and make their way to the intestinal tract and mature into an adult, reproductive infection. Theoretically, encysted larvae reactivate (which is the basis

of transmammary and transplacental infections) and this is why routine antiparasitics fail to clear dogs of their infection. Those drugs simply can't reach the encysted larvae.

Another possibility is that it is just a case of reinfection due to environmental contamination. Dogs on heartworm prevention like Heartguard Plus can be reinfected very soon after they receive those medications. The reason is the active ingredient that kills hookworms (pyrantel) in Heartguard Plus is gone in a day or two and if the property is infested with hookworm, the dog can immediately get reinfected. Fourteen days later the hookworms are laying eggs and reinfesting the property. Another 15 or so days later, the owner gives Heartguard plus again. By then the hookworms have been laying eggs for 15 or so days, then get killed off again... but in a day or two are reinfected. So in these cases, the thing to do is to re-treat in the middle (or every 2 weeks) to stop them from reinfesting the property. Picking up poop helps too! Again, Advantage Multi helps in this scenario because it has extended durations of activity.

NOTE: The manufacturer of Advantage Multi (Bayer) recommends that due to the zoonotic potential in the case of hookworms, dogs who are positive should be dewormed twice at 2 week intervals with regular deworming agents such as Drontal Plus or Panacur. I was told there are no speed of kill studies for the intestinal parasites. Peak serum levels for Advantage Multi are in 5-7 days, but the Bayer rep I spoke to could not say how quickly the worms are affected, so, at least for the initial deworming, it is best to do the Drontal Plus or Panacur, but then follow up with the Advantage Multi in 2 weeks and keep it going monthly.

Ken Simpson, DVM

317.257.5656

Monon Animal Hospital

1403 E 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240

www.mononanimalhospital

Where can I buy these medications, if my vet only prescribes Panacur and Heartguard?

If you have problems persuading your veterinarian to stock these specific medications, or need a good inexpensive source, we get our parasite 'killers' here:

www.Petsupplyexpress.com

We have always been very happy with their service. It ships from the UK, no prescription required. When we had a veterinarian on our board, she researched and confirmed that these are genuine, not counterfeit. From the day we opened our doors, we have used this supplier as a means of cost effective treatment.

- Advantage Multi / Advocate for dogs over 55#, blue box, 6 tubes for \$65 (@ \$11 dose)
- Drontal Plus for dogs 6 tablets for \$75 (@ \$13 dose)