

## Animal Ringworm

This is caused by the fungus *Microsporum canis* and is generally contracted from dogs and cats. It causes red scaly patches on the face, body and scalp. This is a particularly unpleasant disease, difficult to eradicate and leaving permanent scars.

## Dog Bites

There are over 200,000 dog bites a year needing hospital treatment and another estimated 200,000 not reported. Wounds must be carefully cleaned and the patient treated with antibiotics to prevent sepsis caused by *Pseudomonas*, *Staphylococcus aureas*, *Streptococcus viridans*, *Pasteurella multocide* and DF-2 which are all carried in dogs' mouths.

Tetanus and rabies are transmitted by dog bites and appropriate measures must be taken after being bitten by a dog.

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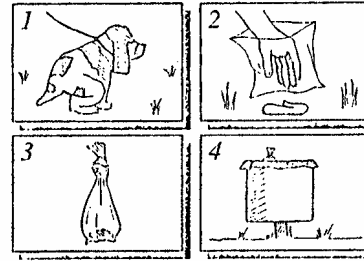
## Toxocara

Protect your family and pets

*Toxocara* (dog and cat roundworm) can cause human blindness

It is spread in the faeces of infected dogs and cats

*don't turn a blind eye!*



*bag it and bin it!*



*For further information or to comment on this leaflet please contact the Environmental Protection Team  
Tel: 01327 322314*

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South Northamptonshire Council  
Springfields, Towcester  
Northamptonshire NN12 6AE  
Fax 01327 359946

E-mail: [environmental.protection@southnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.protection@southnorthants.gov.uk)  
or visit SNC's website at [www.southnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk)

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**South Northamptonshire Council**

**Animal Welfare Service**

*Leaflet 7*



**Zoonoses**

**Animal Related Diseases In Man**

## *Toxocara canis*

This is a roundworm 10cm long, parasitic in the intestine of dogs. Its life cycle has three stages: eggs, larvae, and adult worms. In an infected dog, some larvae migrate to the dog's tissues and lie dormant, but in the pregnant bitch, hormones stimulate larvae which travel to the pups in the uterus accumulating in their lungs. At birth they move into the pup's intestine and mature into egg laying adults.

A dog can pass thousands of eggs in each gram of faeces, they have sticky shells and can survive on the ground for years waiting for their next host, dog or man.

- 840,000 infected samples of faeces are deposited on Britain's soil each day.
- In a survey of eight parks, ALL were found to be infected with *Toxocara canis* eggs and 24% of soil samples proved positive.

Adult dogs should be wormed at least three times a year with a recommended veterinary preparation.

## Toxocariasis

This is the disease in man. *Toxocara canis* eggs accidentally ingested by humans from contaminated soil in parks or gardens, or on unwashed fruit or vegetables, hatch into larvae and migrate to other parts of the human body ie liver, and spleen and may cause mild discomfort. In the heart they cause MYOCARDITIS. In the lungs, wheezing (as with asthma) and in the eye, partial or complete blindness. There is evidence that polio, epilepsy and encephalitis are linked with larval invasions of the brain.

There is no treatment available to combat *Toxocariasis*. If there is no re-infection it usually runs its course with chronic symptoms for 6 to 18 months.

- 2.6% of the UK population have antibodies to *Toxocara canis* showing that they have at some time been infected by the parasite. Dog breeders show 15% infection.

Tests performed at the Toxocaral Reference Laboratory, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, show a significant increase in positive cases:

	Tests	Positive	Ocular Damage
1990	1916	73	46
1991	1920	111	52
1992	1590	271	102 13-fold increase

## Hookworm-*Ancylostoma caninum*

An extremely heavy, long-term worm burden in children may cause mental or physical retardation, larvae penetrate the skin and reach the blood stream, travel to the lungs and brain where they may live for up to a year.

## Hydatid Disease

This is caused by a tiny tapeworm called *Echinococcus granulosus*, whose life cycle normally involves sheep and dogs. Humans can pick up eggs from unwashed food or fingers after stroking an infected dog. The disease occurs mainly in Wales and other sheep rearing areas of the UK. Larvae hatched in the human intestine migrate into other tissues. They cause slow growing cysts anywhere in the human body mostly in the liver, lungs and abdominal cavity. If cysts are broken, daughter cysts are released to other parts where they can grow to the size of an

orange, sometimes blocking the circulation with serious results.

- There are 15 deaths attributed to this disease in the UK each year.
- Nearly 100 new cases are diagnosed each year – Many more go undetected.

## *Campylobacter*

This is a bacterium previously thought to be confined to cattle, now isolated from dog faeces. In humans it can cause stomach pains, sickness and diarrhoea. It is difficult to diagnose and small children are particularly susceptible to it.

- In the UK there were 1,500 cases reported in 1977.
- 5% of samples of dog faeces collected from parks contained *Campylobacter* organisms.

## *Salmonellae*

*Salmonellae* is a major cause of food poisoning and causes sickness, diarrhoea and dehydration. Of the disease carrying organisms in dog faeces, *Salmonellae* is the most wide-spread. Humans can be contaminated from fur or faeces.

## *Leptospirosis*

This is the disease is man caused by bacteria called *Leptospira canicola*. The sniffing habit of a dog is thought to lead to its infection and it then acts as a reservoir for the disease. The infection is transmitted continuously in its urine. *Leptospira* can survive for three weeks on plants, in soil or in water. The infection can enter the human through an abrasion in the skin. People are at risk gardening or paddling in contaminated streams or playing with infected puppies who may urinate on them. Symptoms range from general malaise to a type of jaundice with a 20% fatality rate. There can be long term disorders of the central nervous system and heart and kidney damage.