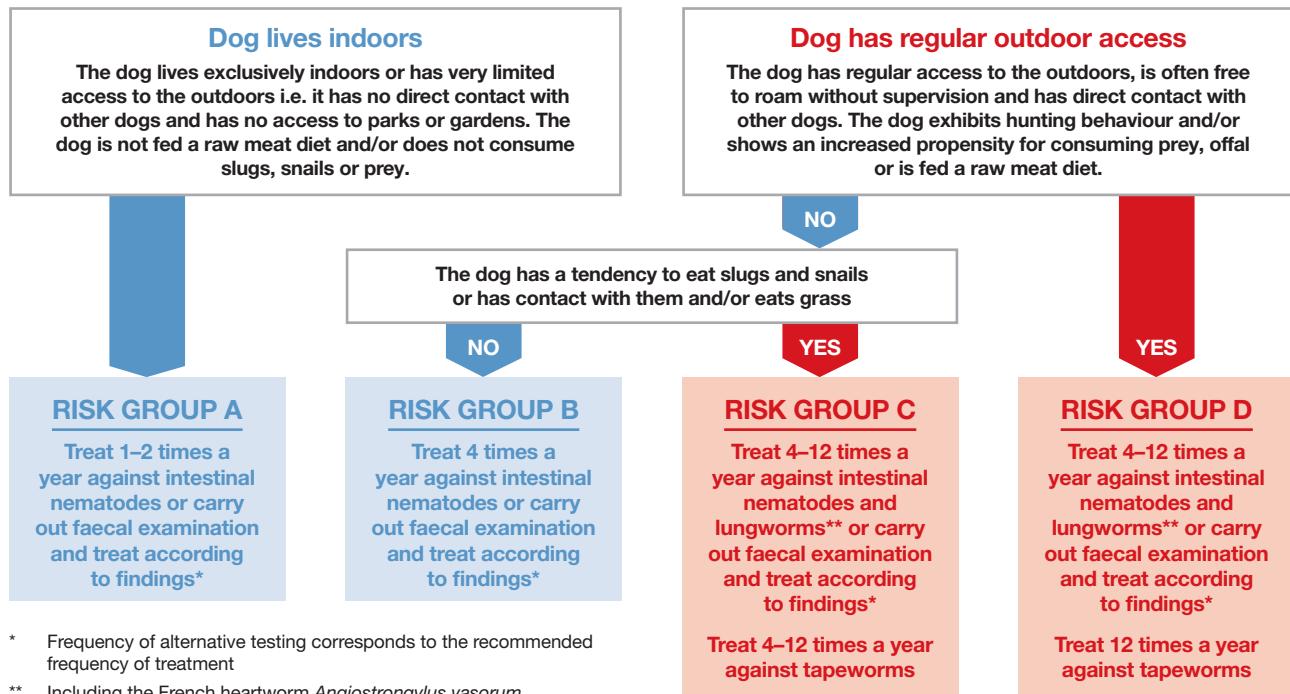


# Scheme for individual worm management in dogs



\* Frequency of alternative testing corresponds to the recommended frequency of treatment

\*\* Including the French heartworm *Angiostrongylus vasorum*

## ADDITIONAL TREATMENTS FOR DOGS

### Roundworms

Puppies	For the first time on the 14th day after birth, then every 2 weeks until 2 weeks after weaning. If there is an ongoing increased risk of infection (e.g. puppy playgroups), monthly treatments up to six months of age.
Pregnant bitches	To reduce transmission to the puppies, pregnant females can be given macrocyclic lactones around the 40th and 55th day of pregnancy or fenbendazole daily from the 40th day of pregnancy until the 2nd day after delivery.
Lactating bitches	Deworm at the first treatment of puppies (2 weeks after delivery).
Dogs with increased risk of infection i.e. those used in sport, competitions, shows or those kept in kennels etc.	Two treatments: a maximum of 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after the event. For kennels: use planned deworming once a month or examine faecal samples every four weeks and treat according to findings.
Professional dogs i.e. therapy, rescue or police dogs	Depending on the risk assessment, use planned deworming once a month or, when exposure to <i>Echinococcus</i> infection is low, examine faecal samples once a month and treat according to findings.
Dogs sharing homes with small children (below 5-6 years), immunocompromised or elderly individuals	Depending on the risk assessment, use planned deworming once a month or examine faecal samples once a month and treat according to findings.

### Lungworms/French heartworm

Dog has a tendency to eat slugs and/or snails or has contact with them, eats grass	Depending on an individual risk assessment e.g. based on the intensity of slug/snail uptake and the epidemiological situation, monthly preventive treatment may be required.
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### Tapeworms

Travel or importation into/from areas endemic for <i>Echinococcus</i> spp.	Deworm dogs with a high risk of infection 4 weeks after start of travelling and then every 4 weeks, with the last deworming no later than 4 weeks after return. Immediate deworming after importation.
Eats raw meat and/or offal, eats prey	Dogs that are fed raw meat that has not been sufficiently heated (10 minutes, core temperature 65°C) or frozen (one week, -17 to -20°C) should be treated for tapeworms every 4 weeks.
Flea or chewing lice infestation (as a vector for <i>Dipylidium</i> )	Once when the infestation is established.

### Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*)<sup>1</sup>

Dogs living in areas endemic for heartworm	Treatment against transmitted third-stage larvae with macrocyclic lactones at monthly intervals (or according to the corresponding package insert) during the mosquito season and for a 30-day period after the end of the mosquito season.
Travelling to areas endemic for heartworm	During the mosquito season, prophylactic treatment against transmitted third-stage larvae with macrocyclic lactones within 30 days of arrival into the endemic area, followed by further treatments at monthly intervals until 30 days after return.
Importation from areas endemic for heartworm	Immediately after importation, one-off prophylactic treatment against third-stage larvae and microfilariae with macrocyclic lactones. Preliminary examination for any existing infection at time of importation and retest earliest 6 months later.

- Deworming practices should always be on the advice of a veterinary professional. For intestinal nematodes and lungworms, regular coprological examination of faeces (eventually with subsequent deworming) can be an alternative to standard deworming advice if performed at the same frequency as the suggested treatments.
- If an animal's individual risk of infection with intestinal nematodes cannot be clearly assessed, the dog should be dewormed or faeces examined at least 4 times a year. The same applies in principle to tapeworm infection, although the reliability of detecting tapeworm infections using faecal sample tests is low (with the exception of *Dipylidium*, for which a coproantigen test allows detection with high sensitivity). Therefore, the recommendation is to treat against tapeworms at least 4 times a year. Studies have shown that 1-3 annual dewormings do not provide sufficient protection.

<sup>1</sup> In areas endemic for heartworm, dogs that live indoors but are taken for walks may be exposed to mosquitoes, therefore *Dirofilaria* prevention should be considered. Detailed information about heartworm infection in dogs and cats can be found in ESCCAP Guideline 5: Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Dogs and Cats