



FOREST
Veterinary Centre

www.forestvets.com

CLIENT INFORMATION SHEET LUNGWORM INFECTION IN DOGS

Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus vasorum*) infection in dogs is now considered endemic in the South East of England. We have been monitoring the situation closely and have recently seen increasing numbers of cases. We recommend using a monthly product to prevent infection.

Dogs can be infected with lungworm for several years before clinical signs develop and these may include respiratory disease such as coughing, or bleeding problems. Lungworm is transmitted by the ingestion of slugs, snails or frogs although most owners never see this happen.

Dogs can now be tested for lungworm with an 'in-house' blood test meaning that we can usually have the result back in a very short period of time. If your dog has previously tested positive on the blood test future monitoring can be done by submitting a faecal sample to us for testing. This is best done on a 'pooled' sample over three days to minimise the small risk of a false negative result.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There are currently two licenced products for the prevention of lungworm – **monthly Milbemax** worming tablets or **monthly Advocate** spot on treatment. Please see our flea and worm treatment information sheet for the combinations of products that can be used for routine prevention of fleas, ticks, worms and lungworm.
- We have seen occasional positive cases of lungworm despite the use of Milbemax or Advocate. If your pet has previously been infected with lungworm we would recommend using Panacur (for one week) every 3 months in conjunction with either monthly Milbemax or Advocate.
- If your dog is clinically well and you would like to test for lungworm please submit a faecal sample to us for laboratory testing.
- If your dog is ill or you think your dog may be infected with lungworm please speak to a vet. We will probably recommend a chest X-ray to check for signs of infection and a blood test to check for lungworm and bleeding problems.

TREATMENT OF CONFIRMED CASES

Treatment of a confirmed case of lungworm can occasionally cause a severe allergic reaction to the dying larvae. If we have confirmed that your dog has lungworm, or if we are very suspicious, we recommend treatment with '**Panacur**'. This wormer has been considered the treatment of choice for many years and it has been reported to be efficacious in many published veterinary studies.

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