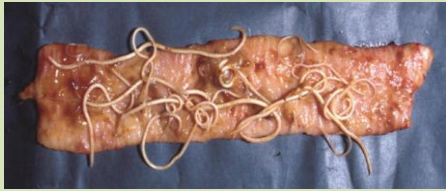







## Zoonoses Fact Sheet - Roundworm

<p><b>What are Roundworms?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundworms are parasitic worms living in the guts of dogs.</li> <li>• Roundworms are the biggest worms in the dogs gut.</li> <li>• When a puppy is wormed for the first time the owner may find a large number of long yellowish worms in the poo.</li> <li>• <i>Toxocara canis</i>, dog roundworms in dogs gut, image courtesy Nick Sangster, University of Sydney</li> </ul> 
<p><b>How do roundworms make people sick?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Visceral larval migrans:</b> If a roundworm egg hatches in a person, the baby worms travel through the body, causing coughing, fever, stomach pain, rash, headaches, wheezing, or difficulty sleeping. These can last for a few weeks.</li> <li>• <b>Ocular larval migrans:</b> If the baby worm gets into the eye, it can make a cyst. The green circle in the child's eyes at left is a roundworm cyst.</li> <li>• This can make children blind. In the past doctors used to think the eye form was eye cancer and take out children's eye.</li> </ul>  <p><a href="http://www.indianwalkvet.com/roundworms.htm">www.indianwalkvet.com/roundworms.htm</a></p>
<p><b>How is it picked up?</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humans can be infected by accidentally eating the eggs which are passed in the poo. The worm eggs are very small. They can just be in the dirt on a person's hand.</li> <li>• The roundworm eggs then hatch in the babies gut.</li> <li>• Many people make antibodies to roundworm without getting sick.</li> <li>• If there are too many eggs, or the person is young, very old, or not well, the baby worms then move through the gut wall and into the person's body.</li> <li>• They are picked up by the blood and moved around the body and get stuck in places around the body such as the liver, brain and eyes.</li> <li>• They form a cyst where they get stuck.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How are Dogs involved?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundworms normally live inside dogs.</li> <li>• Dogs spread roundworm through their poo.</li> <li>• Roundworms can also be a big problem for puppies. If pups have a lot of these worms the pups gut can get fully blocked. Pups can die from this.</li> <li>• Wormy puppies are often skinny but with round bellies and dull coats.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>How do we prevent this?</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ivermectin or shop bought <b>all-wormer</b> pills kill the worms in the dogs' gut</li> <li>• <b>Dry clean yards</b> helps kill the worm eggs before they infect a person or a dog.</li> <li>• <b>Washing hands</b> stops the eggs getting into the body.</li> <li>• <b>Desexing programs</b> mean that the amount of pups being born are dramatically and permanently reduced. Pups are less resistant to roundworm and spread the disease more quickly.</li> </ul> 

Source: **Dr Samantha Phelan, Environmental Health Practitioner Manual, AMRRIC, 2008**