

NUTRITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS for Pets With Intestinal Parasites

The cause of diarrhea and potential for intestinal dysbiosis need to be considered when building a comprehensive parasite management plan.



Diarrhea typically results from physical damage to the gut during infestation.¹⁻³

- Small intestinal parasites like coccidia and hookworms can cause diarrhea by damaging the mucosa and impairing nutrient absorption.^{1,2}
- Whipworms cause colitis through direct invasion of the large intestinal mucosa.³



Addressing dysbiosis is an emerging consideration for intestinal parasitism management.

- New studies are documenting primary intestinal dysbiosis during roundworm infestations, which may be further influenced by anthelmintic use.^{4,5}



Using Hill's therapeutic nutrition together with antiparasitic medications can actively support the healing process of the gastrointestinal tract and help manage diarrhea.

| | Small Bowel Diarrhea Prioritize highly digestible nutrition | | Large Bowel Diarrhea Prioritize fiber-enhanced nutrition |
|--|---|--|---|
| Step 1: Define clinical presentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically lower frequency of defecation with larger volume.* • Most common with: roundworms, hookworms, coccidia, giardia, tapeworms | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically small-volume, frequent bowel movements with mucus or blood.* • Most common with: whipworms |
| Step 2: Make your nutritional recommendation | Over 12 months of age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Canine & Feline varieties | Under 12 months of age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill's Prescription Diet i/d Puppy & Kitten varieties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill's Prescription Diet Gastrointestinal Biome Canine & Feline varieties** |
| How it helps | High nutrient digestibility supports optimal nutrient absorption by the small intestine as it recovers and minimizes food residues that may contribute to diarrhea. | | Prebiotic fiber blend (ActivBiome+) supports the production of short-chain fatty acids and anti-inflammatory compounds to support gut recovery. |

*Diarrhea may not correlate with the location of parasite colonization and should be managed based on the veterinarian's clinical judgement of the affected bowel segment.

**Hill's Prescription Diet Gastrointestinal Biome Canine & Feline varieties have been evaluated using AAFCO feeding trial procedures for the maintenance of adult dogs and cats, respectively. If short-term feeding of growing animals is deemed appropriate at the veterinarian's discretion, it should be limited to 1-2 consecutive weeks.

1. Animal Parasite Council guidelines on management of Hookworms., 12 Sept. 2022
2. Companion Animal Parasite Council guidelines on management of Coccidia, 10 Oct. 2016
3. Companion Animal Parasite Council guidelines on management of Whipworms., 12 Sept. 2022
4. Wang N, Sieng S, Chen P, Liang T, Xu J, Han Q. Regulation Effect of Toxocara canis and Anthelmintics on Intestinal Microbiota Diversity and Composition in Dog. Microorganisms. 2024; 12(10):2037.
5. Sieng S, Chen P, Wang N, Xu JY, Han Q. Toxocara canis-induced changes in host intestinal microbial communities. Parasit Vectors. 2023 Dec 19; 16(1):462.