



Bill Feeman, DVM

Date Published: 11/1/19

Why is this relevant to Greyhounds?

A number of years ago, rescue groups started seeing Greyhounds that were persistently testing positive for hookworms in spite of deworming. Around this time, veterinarians started seeing cases of persistent hookworm infection. What was noted is almost all of the persistent hookworm infections were Greyhounds and they would be persistently infected despite deworming and heartworm prevention that normally controls/treats hookworm infections. Research at the University of Georgia indicates these persistent infections are due to resistance to medication.

How are resistant/persistent hookworm infections treated?

We currently use a combination of treatments to treat these Greyhounds:

1. **Heartworm prevention:** Use either **Advantage Multi** or **Coraxis** (both are made by Bayer) every 4 weeks. These medications will reach a "steady state" in the body in 3-4 months and will help to control hookworms all month long as opposed to only deworming on the day it is given.
2. **Dewormer:** I recommend using the dewormer **Pyrantel Pamoate** (aka Nemex or Strongid) every 4 weeks but 2 weeks after the heartworm prevention. Another alternative is to use Drontal Plus (Praziquantel/Febantel/Pyrantel) but cost is significantly higher and I have not traditionally found this necessary.

Use this combination for a minimum of 6 consecutive months but that time period must encompass a full Winter (the cold weather helps to decontaminate the yard of eggs). For example, if I diagnosed a dog in March, I would treat that dog for 12 months with this protocol. At a minimum, a traditional fecal sample should be negative for hookworm eggs using this treatment. Ideally, if an ELISA test is done to look for DNA of hookworms, that would be negative too but some resistant hookworms remain persistently ELISA positive and no definitive treatment has been identified to eliminate this "carrier state". As long as the egg count is negative, these dogs should not be "contagious" to other animals.

Please note Coraxis is for heartworm and intestinal parasite prevention and Advantage Multi adds flea control but neither product is effective against ticks. Additional medication/treatment would be needed for tick control.

I do not currently recommend the use of Advantage Multi or Coraxis every 2 weeks as has been recommended by some rescue groups.

I do not recommend the use of Quest or other large animal or equine dewormers for treatment. These drugs, while more cost effective, are very concentrated and can be toxic or even deadly if administered at too high of a dose or too frequently.