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Dear Veterinarian:

Your client has just adopted a greyhound from the Greyhound Adoption League of Texas (GALT)! The health and well-being of our fur babies is always top of mind and GALT would like you to be aware of a health concern that is a growing issue not just for greyhounds, but for all breeds of dogs.

It is becoming evident that hookworms are more common and more difficult than ever to clear from our greyhounds. A study at the University of Georgia has indicated that today's hookworm is a hybrid that over time has become resistant to all the treatments currently approved in the US for this parasite. The hookworm is also capable of 'hibernating' and re-infecting (known as 'larval leak') the greyhound once the treatment has cleared the active infection (adults) from the greyhound's system.

From Pablo D Jimenez Castro, DVM in the Department of Infectious Diseases, College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Georgia: Because of these peculiarities and the recent diagnosis of multi-drug resistance hookworm (Jimenez Castro et al., 2019), nowadays, hookworm infections need to be managed differently. We recommend performing pre and post treatment quantitative fecal egg counts (FEC), e.g. McMasters or Mini-FLOTACs, which can be performed at the diagnostic lab at UGA or other diagnostic centers as well, in order to assess the efficacy of the treatment. This should be done before treatment begins and 14-21 days after completion. Please see attached from Dr. Castro for more details on the study and conclusions (page 24 from Greyhound Medical Idiosyncrasies).

After reviewing many combinations of parasitic medications, the treatment regime that appears to be the most successful is recommended by Bill Feeman, DVM at Animal Medical Centre, Medina, Ohio. Please see his attached memo dated 11/1/19.

Coraxis or Advantage Multi for 6 months (applied topically once a month)

Pyrantel Paramote based on each dog's weight, given 2 weeks after the Coraxis or Advantage Multi for 6 months

Recheck fecal 2-3 weeks after the last medication administration.

It could take up to 6 months or more to show a **consistent** clear fecal. Please see attached for more information from Dr. Feeman (page 8, Item 32).

How can you help?

In the adoption packet the adopter should have received the medication doses required and a schedule of when to administer. Please follow this schedule religiously! At the conclusion of the six-month treatment, GALT will pay for the fecal if scheduled through GALT at VCA Preston Park Animal Hospital. Contact information to schedule is provided at the bottom of the medication schedule for the adopter to complete this step. If the test is negative, we are asking to please recheck again in two weeks through your practice to confirm the negative test result and advise GALT. If the test is positive, please follow the checklist on the back of this letter until a consistent clear fecal is achieved. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact GALT's vets at VCA Preston Park Animal Hospital, 18770 Preston Road, Dallas, TX 75252 972-985-0081. Thank you for your assistance with finding a solution to keep our fur babies happy and healthy!

Hookworm Treatment Protocol Checklist

To help minimize the possibility of re-infestation and spreading to other dogs in your household, please 'pick up' after your greyhound immediately after each elimination.

Step 1

Complete the protocol medication as scheduled on the Treatment for Hookworms Schedule provided in your adoption packet.

Schedule a fecal retest as indicated on the schedule. If your sample is coordinated with GALT, GALT will pay for the fecal test. This applies to only this first fecal test.

- If negative, do a fecal retest in two weeks with your vet to confirm the negative result. Please provide the test results to GALT for communication to the UGA Study. If negative, complete a fecal recheck during the annual physical. If positive, continue with Step 2.
- If positive, continue with Step 2. Please provide the test results to GALT for communication to the UGA study.

Step 2

Begin another six-month round of the protocol using the following medications and doses as prescribed in the GALT protocol.

- Coraxis or Advantage Multi for 6 months (applied once a month)
- Pyrantel Paramote based on each dog's weight, given 2 weeks after the Coraxis or Advantage Multi for 6 months

Wait two weeks after the last dose to get a fecal retest.

- If negative, do a fecal retest in two weeks with your vet to confirm the negative result. Please provide the test results to GALT for communication to the UGA Study. If negative, complete a fecal recheck during the annual physical. If positive, continue with Step 2.
- If positive, repeat Step 2 until a clear fecal is achieved. Please provide the test results to GALT for communication to the UGA study.

Step 3

Complete a fecal recheck during the annual physical. If any tests come back positive, begin the protocol immediately and follow Step 2.

If you have any questions, please contact GALT at info@GALTx.org.