



The Life Cycle of the Roundworm - Adult roundworms live in the small intestine of dogs and cats, where they lay up to **80,000 eggs per day**. These eggs are shed in the environment through the animal's feces and, within a few weeks, an infective larva develops inside. When a dog or cat picks up the infective eggs, they hatch in its stomach and the larvae penetrate the stomach wall. They start migrating to several organs before coming back to the intestine and developing into adult, egg-laying worms. Some larvae do not go back to the gut: they remain encysted in the various organs until a stimulus such as pregnancy, encourages them to start migrating and develop to adult worms in the intestine.



Roundworm Disease - Roundworms are especially harmful to puppies and kittens. The migrating larvae can cause liver, lung and brain damage. The presence of the adult worms in the intestine leads to a gut inflammation, which affects digestion, development, and growth. Common symptoms of heavy infections include vomiting, diarrhea, colic, anemia, poor growth and a "pot-bellied" appearance. A heavy accumulation of roundworms in a puppy or kitten can lead to death.

Always have your veterinarian check for worms.

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