

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

First of all, I would like to say that I am not a Veterinarian, so any information you get from this paper or website is only my opinion only.

I thought I should write down some important information that I feel as an honest and reputable breeder that you should know about dogs/puppies and some of the diseases or parasites that they can carry. All dogs/puppies can potentially carry contagious diseases to humans (i.e., brucellosis). Brucellosis is only contagious to humans when first of all, your dog “must” carry the disease, and only in a breeding situation where the human touches the placenta or touches bodily fluids from the birthing process from an infected Mother. If this happens, it is considered an “emergency” and must be reported. Brucellosis can do many things to humans, but it is especially bad for a human to obtain the disease from a dog or another animal. Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria of the genus *Brucella*. These bacteria are primarily passed among animals, and they cause disease in many different vertebrates. Various *Brucella* species affect sheep, goats, cattle, deer, elk, pigs, dogs, and several other animals. Humans become infected by coming in contact with animals or animal products that are contaminated with these bacteria. In humans, brucellosis can cause a range of symptoms that are similar to the flu and may include fever, sweats, headaches, back pains, and physical weakness. Severe infections of the central nervous systems or lining of the heart may occur. Brucellosis can also cause long-lasting or chronic symptoms that include recurrent fevers, joint pain, and fatigue. *B. canis* is the species of *Brucella* species that can infect dogs. This species has occasionally been transmitted to humans, but the vast majority of dog infections do not result in human illness. Although veterinarians exposed to blood of infected animals are at risk, pet owners are not considered to be at risk for infection. This is partly because it is unlikely that they will come in contact with blood, semen, or placenta of the dog. The bacteria may be cleared from the animal within a few days of treatment; however re-infection is common and some animal body fluids may be infectious for weeks. Immuno-compromised persons (cancer patients, HIV-infected individuals, or transplantation patients) should not handle dogs known to be infected with *B. canis*. Treatment can be difficult. Doctors can prescribe effective antibiotics. Usually, doxycycline and rifampin are used in combination for 6 weeks to prevent reoccurring infection. Depending on the timing of treatment and severity of illness, recovery may take a few weeks to several months. Mortality is low (<2%), and is usually associated with endocarditis. We have a Canine Herpes and Brucellosis FREE environment here. ALL of our dogs are pre-tested; therefore, they cannot spread Brucellosis to another human because none of our dogs have it. I do not have any other knowledge of any other diseases being transmissible to humans from a dog/puppy.

In regards to parasites, hookworms, whipworms, and roundworms are both “highly” contagious to humans. If your puppy/dog contracts or has been diagnosed with these, please make sure you bleach everything the dog comes in contact with and treat the dog appropriately with panacur or appropriate medicine per your Veterinarians instructions. Takes six weeks to fully get rid of these parasites. Treatment is every two weeks or according to your Veterinarian.

What is toxocariasis?

Toxocariasis is a zoonotic (animal to human) infection caused by the parasitic roundworms commonly found in the intestine of dogs (*Toxocara canis*) and cats (*T. cati*).

What are the symptoms of toxocariasis?

There are two major forms of toxocariasis:

- 1) Ocular larva migrans (OLM):
- 2) *Toxocara* infections can cause OLM, an eye disease that can cause **blindness**. OLM occurs when a microscopic worm enters the eye; it may cause inflammation and formation of a scar on the retina. Each year more than 700 people infected with *Toxocara* experience permanent partial loss of vision.

2) Visceral larva migrans (VLM):

Heavier, or repeated *Toxocara* infections, while rare, can cause VLM, a disease that causes swelling of the body’s organs or central nervous system. Symptoms of VLM, which are caused by the movement of the worms through the body, include fever, coughing, asthma, or pneumonia.

How serious is infection with *Toxocara*?

In most cases, *Toxocara* infections are not serious, and many people, especially adults infected by a small number of larvae (immature worms), may not notice any symptoms. The most severe cases are rare, but are more likely to occur in young children, who often play in dirt, or eat dirt (pica) contaminated by dog or cat stool.

How is toxocariasis spread?

The most common *Toxocara* parasite of concern to humans is *T. canis*, which puppies usually contract from the mother before birth or from her milk. The larvae mature rapidly in the puppy’s intestines; when the pup is 3 or 4 weeks old, they

begin to produce large numbers of eggs that contaminate the environment through the animal's stool. The eggs soon develop into infective larvae.

How can I get toxocariasis?

You or your children can become infected after accidentally ingesting (swallowing) infective *Toxocara* eggs from larvae in soil or other contaminated surfaces.

What should I do if I think I have toxocariasis?

See your health care provider to discuss the possibility of infection and, if necessary, to be examined. A blood test is available for diagnosis.

What is the treatment for toxocariasis?

VLM is treated with antiparasitic drugs, usually in combination with anti-inflammatory medications. Treatment of OLM is more difficult and usually consists of measures to prevent progressive damage to the eye.

Who is at risk for toxocariasis?

Young children; owners of dogs and cats.

How can you prevent toxocariasis?

- Have your veterinarian treat your dogs and cats, especially young animals, regularly for worms.
- Wash your hands well with soap and water after playing with your pets and after outdoor activities, especially before you eat. Teach children to always wash their hands after playing with dogs and cats and after playing outdoors.
- Do not allow children to play in areas that are soiled with pet or other animal stool.
- Clean your pet's living area at least once a week. Feces should be either buried or bagged and disposed of in the trash.
- Teach children that it is dangerous to eat dirt or soil.

For more information:

1. Glickman LT, Schantz PM. Epidemiology and pathogenesis of zoonotic toxocariasis. *Epidemiol Rev* 1981;3:230-50.
2. Kazacos KR. Visceral and ocular larva migrans. *Semin Vet Med Surg (Small Anim)* 1991;6:227-35.
3. Schantz PM. *Toxocara* larva migrans now. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 1989;41(3) Suppl:21-34.

**This information prepared in association with the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP).*

As you can see already, there are all kinds of things that can come from getting a puppy that has parasites. You want to make sure your puppy is tested when you get it BEFORE anyone else touches your puppy. Coccidia and giardia are other types of parasites that your puppy can have and the giardia is most definitely contagious to you and your children. There are some forms of coccidia, but kind of rare to see, can cause infection to humans. There are many reasons to make sure your puppy has clean poop. (I know that sounds funny...clean poop! lol), but to me, poop is important--VERY IMPORTANT....**we want it CLEAN ALL the time: for the dog, you, me, and anyone who comes in contact with fido!**

Please let me know if you have any questions whatsoever about any of this material herein.....thanks so much for taking the time to read this info...it is very important and most breeders do not know about it; therefore, it does not get relayed on to the clients the importance of your puppy's purchase exam. We do worm our puppies each week...we do fecals on all puppies before they leave.....☺ Our puppies will be free from parasitic infection inside and out! We honestly take every precaution known to man to ensure you a healthy puppy in every possible way.