

Practice Advice note on Lungworm prevention in dogs

The lungworm (*Angiostrongylus vasorum*) is a parasite that can cause serious health problems in dogs and can even be fatal if not diagnosed and treated.

Slugs and snails carry the lungworm larvae, and dogs can become infected when they eat these common garden pests accidentally or deliberately, whilst rummaging through undergrowth, eating grass, drinking from puddles or outdoor water bowls, or pick them up from their toys.

The lungworm parasite is now considered to be present throughout much of the UK.

Grove Veterinary Centre have been monitoring the number of cases of lungworm in this area and up to now our advice has been to use preventative treatment if you are concerned or if your dog is at particular risk.

Having recently reviewed the lungworm distribution map it is now the practice policy to recommend lungworm treatment for all dogs in the practice except where there is an overwhelming need to treat for ticks as there is currently no product which will be suitable for both parasites. Even in those animals at risk of ticks owners should consider the use of lungworm treatment in the winter months when the tick risk is much reduced.

Lungworm can be prevented using a combined flea and lungworm spot on. For more information please contact the surgery and speak to a veterinary nurse or veterinary surgeon.