Understanding the Whipworm (*Trichuris vulpis*) life cycle

1. Inside the dog’s large intestine, adult whipworms live and release eggs.
2. Eggs are released in feces 74-90 days after infection.
3. Eggs contaminate the soil in your yard, where they may persist for years.
4. Invisible to the naked eye, larvae develop in the eggs and become infective in 9-21 days.
5. Contaminated soil on toys or dog’s paws may put the dog at risk of infection if embryonated eggs are ingested.
6. After ingestion, larvae hatch from eggs and are released into the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, penetrate the intestinal wall, develop for 2-10 days then move to the cecum where they mature into adults.

**Year-round whipworm protection is important**

The infective eggs of these parasites may exist continuously in the environment, even during cold weather periods, and can ultimately re-infect your dog.