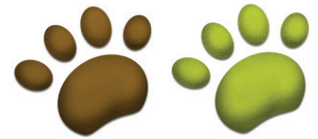


Giardia in Dogs



Giardia is a single-celled parasite that lives in your dog's intestine. It infects older dogs but more frequently infects puppies. Dogs become infected when they swallow *Giardia* that may be present in water or other substances that have been soiled with feces.

How will *Giardia* affect my dog?

Many dogs infected with *Giardia* do not get any disease. Giardiasis, the disease caused by *Giardia* infection, usually results in diarrhea. Some animals with giardiasis may also throw up. Having giardiasis a long time can cause weight loss; generally poor condition; and even death, when the disease is serious.

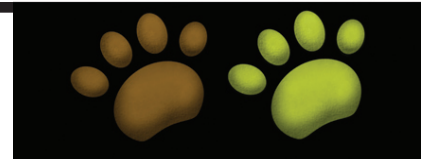
How do I prevent my dog from getting *Giardia*?

The best way to prevent *Giardia* infection is to make sure that your dog has safe, clean drinking water. It is important not to allow dogs to drink water from areas where other animals have left their feces. We can perform a test on your dog's feces to see if it has giardiasis. If your dog is infected with *Giardia*, we can prescribe safe, effective treatment.

To prevent spreading *Giardia* (and other parasites), pick up the feces left by your dog immediately and place it in the trash. Be sure to avoid contact with the feces by using gloves, a bag over your hand, or a scooping device.

Can humans be harmed by *Giardia*?

Giardia is a common cause of diarrhea in people, and there is a chance that *Giardia* from dogs could infect people and cause disease. For this reason, if you think your dog may be infected, it is important to see us for appropriate tests and safe, effective treatment. Infection of people with *Giardia* from dogs is rare. It is likely that most people become infected with *Giardia* passed by other people rather than *Giardia* from pets.



Did you know?

- ***Giardia* in dogs can cause diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, poor condition, or death. However, many infected dogs show no symptoms.**
- **People can get giardia, causing diarrhea or other problems, but rarely from dogs.**
- **Dogs get giardia from water that has been soiled with feces. Give your dog safe, clean water to drink.**
- **Pick up your dog's feces immediately, avoiding contact with your skin.**



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