



Intestinal Parasites



Intestinal parasites are parasites that live inside the host animal's gastrointestinal tract.

Examples Include:

Worms

- Roundworms
- Whipworms
- Hookworms
- Tapeworms

Protozoa

- Giardia
- Coccidia
- Cryptosporidium
- Strongyloides stercoralis

Causes:

One of the most common causes parasitic infections is the ingestion of infected fecal material, as the cysts are shed in animal feces. The most common cause of transmission is actually waterborne, as the parasite prefers the cool and moist environment. Some of the risk factors include the ingestion of contaminated food or water.

Stress, as from moving, travel and weather changes, and being in an environment with other infected animals are also common causes of this parasitic infection to develop.

Parasite infections are of particular danger for young dogs, since their immune systems are still underdeveloped. Up to 50 percent of young puppies will develop an intestinal infection, and up to 100 percent of dogs housed in kennels will develop them due to the massive exposure and closely shared living spaces.

Symptoms and Types:

- Diarrhea, perhaps with blood
- Diarrhea, awful odor or excessive mucus
- Weight loss
- Dry hair
- General poor appearance
- Vomiting, perhaps with worms in the vomit



Diagnosis:

A fecal examination is the most common method of diagnosis for this infection. Your vet will want to rule out other possibilities for the intestinal infection such as improper digestion (maldigestion), unabsorbed nutrients, or inflammatory bowel disease prior to recommending a treatment option. In cats, your vet will want to differentiate between Giardia and other primary causes of large bowel diarrhea. This organism is primarily detected in the feces. A fecal smear is normally sufficient to test for their presence, although it is possible to have a false positive.

Treatment:

Treatment is typically done on an outpatient basis. If the cat or dog is debilitated, they may be kept for observation. A medication to kill the parasite will be prescribed, and is generally highly effective and fast working. Prescription drugs along with bathing are combined to reduce the likelihood of repeat infection and to remove the parasite from the dog's body.

Pets will need to be rehydrated as a result of the diarrhea. A follow up fecal examination within one to two weeks of the initial treatment will be needed to ensure that the parasite is no longer present in the animal's body.



Prevention:

The most preventative measure available for this disease is to make sure that the pet is in a clean environment and is not eating animal feces or drinking dirty water, as it could be contaminated parasite organisms that cause these conditions.

PREVENT WORMS AND PARASITES

Dogs and cats are susceptible to a variety of different parasites including heartworm, hookworm, fleas, ticks and many more.



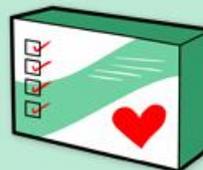
All of these parasites feed off your pet's body and cause major health problems if untreated.



Fleas and other parasites can actually transmit diseases to you and your family as well.



Parasites are preventable in most cases, so talk to your vet about the different ways you can keep your pet parasite free.



Make sure to bring your pet in for regular check ups, parasites can often go undetected by pet owners.



DVMmultimedia™
DYNAMIC VETERINARY MARKETING

www.DVMMultimedia.com

Please call us if you have any questions (831) 462-5293

For More Information:

http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_multi_giardiasis
http://www.petmd.com/cat/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_ct_giardiasis
http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_multi_coccidiosis
http://www.petmd.com/cat/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_ct_coccidiosis
http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_multi_cryptosporidiosis
http://www.petmd.com/cat/conditions/infectious-parasitic/c_ct_cryptosporidiosis
http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/digestive/c_dg_strongloidiasis

6 Winter Pet Safety Tips:

DVMmultimedia™
DYNAMIC VETERINARY MARKETING
www.DVMmultimedia.com

DECORATIONS!

Pets can get into **TROUBLE** easily around holiday decorations



TREATS & CANDY!

Some holiday foods are loaded with **BAD STUFF** for pets



OUTDOOR PETS!

Fresh water, warm bedding, and wind-free **SHELTER** for outdoor pets



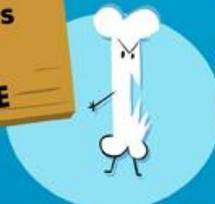
ANTIFREEZE!

Cold weather chemicals like antifreeze are **DEADLY POISON** for pets



COOKED BONES!

Splintered bones from meat dishes can cause **FATAL DAMAGE**



YOUNG & OLD!

Elderly and infant pets are most **VULNERABLE** in cold weather





**Please make an
appointment
to discuss your
pet's health:**



AdobeVets.com
