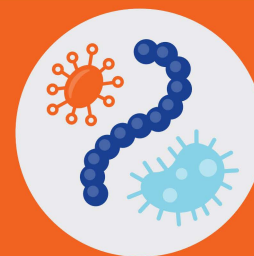


Giardiasis

Giardiasis is an intestinal infection caused by a common microscopic parasite (giardia).

Pets can ingest giardia cysts from even a few drops of contaminated water, feces, plant material, or food. Once inside the body, the parasite causes intestinal irritation and damage. New eggs are passed out again through contaminated stool.



- ▶ Giardia is a hardy, water-borne parasite that can infect both pets and people.

What does it look like?

Common signs:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Weight loss

- ▶ Even if pets don't appear ill, they can pass giardia onto other pets or human family members.



How is it diagnosed?

Your veterinary team may need to examine multiple fecal specimens under microscope, or run specialized laboratory tests.

How is it treated?

Prescription medications can help. Eliminating the parasite may require more than one course of therapy.

- ▶ Giardia is highly contagious. Wear gloves, remove feces promptly, and wash your hands thoroughly after touching your pet.



How to help your pet

- Administer all medications as prescribed
- Bring all infected pets in for examination and treatment
- During treatment, remove feces promptly, bathe your dog regularly, and disinfect kennels and dog runs daily with diluted bleach
- After treatment, provide stool samples for testing to ensure your pet is parasite free
- Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- Need immediate advice? Ping Vet Chat™—included in all pet Optimum Wellness Plans®!

