



Giardia:



Giardia is a single-celled parasite that lives in your companion's intestines. Animals become infected when they swallow *Giardia* that may be present in water or other substances that have been soiled with feces.

While your companion is being treated for giardia we recommend adding 1 tbsp per 10 pounds body weight of no sugar added canned pumpkin twice a day to your companion's food. Continue feeding the canned pumpkin until we confirm a fecal result with no evidence of giardia. We also recommend adding 1 tbsp per 10 pounds body weight of greek yogurt daily.

We also recommend giving your companion a bath on the last day of their medical treatment for giardia, then recheck a fecal sample 3 weeks after starting treatment.

How will Giardia affect my dog?

Many animals infected with *Giardia* do not show symptoms of the disease. Giardiasis, the disease caused by *Giardia* infection, usually results in diarrhea. Having symptomatic giardiasis for a long time can cause weight loss; poor condition; and even death.

How do I prevent my dog from being infected with Giardia?

The best way to prevent *Giardia* infection is to make sure that your dog has safe, clean drinking water. It is important to prevent drinking water from puddles, lakes, streams, and ponds.

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, but dog *Giardia* is not generally considered to spread from animals to humans. While human *Giardia* may infect dogs and then be passed on to humans, the majority of human cases are of human origin.