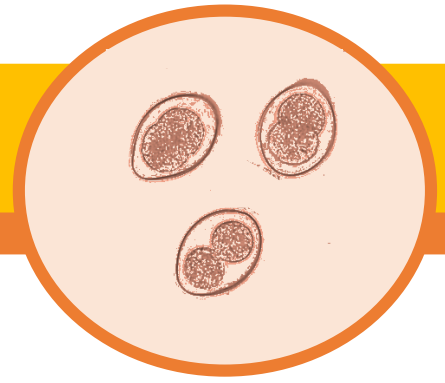


Coccidia



What is Coccidia?

Coccidia are microscopic parasites that can be found on routine fecal exams. However, they are not worms, so they are not susceptible to the regular dewormers which may be dispensed to your pet. Both dogs and cats may be infected by different species, however this particular parasite may not be passed on to you and your family.

Symptoms of Coccidia

Symptoms of coccidia include watery, bloody diarrhea, and sometimes vomiting which may be life threatening to your pet, especially if they are very young, old, or small.

Coccidia causes infection when an infective oocyst is ingested by your pet. This may occur through environmental contamination, or through ingestion of a mouse, or insect carrying infective oocysts.

Treatment of Coccidia

Treatment for coccidian includes sulfa drugs (the traditional treatment) and coccidiocidal medications (newer treatment). Usually, medications are administered for a week or two. It is important to remember that even though the diarrhea may clear quickly with treatment, the medication should be administered in its entirety to ensure resolution.

After Treatment...

It is important that after treatment, another fecal sample is examined, to ensure that the coccidian has been cleared from your pet's intestinal tract. Once your pet has been infected with coccidian, it does not provide immunity from reinfection. Therefore, soiled areas of the house or backyard must be cleaned promptly to avoid reinfection.

