



HEART HEALTHCARE & EMERGENCY ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM

a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

"HELPING PROTECT PETS AND PEOPLE"

heart4pets.org 714-993-9193



IMPORTANCE OF FECAL TESTING

Due to the concerning number of positive parasite/Giardia cases we have seen over the past year, fecal tests are strongly recommend for pets annually and more often for those having higher risks from exposure to other animals and various environmental conditions. It is important to determine if your pet has parasites, as they can easily be transmitted and are very dangerous to the health of other pets and humans.

Pets are easily susceptible to contracting parasites through exposure from environments where other pets or wildlife have access, such as backyards, doggie and people parks, community/shared walking areas, boarding/daycare facilities, and other places. Even healthy pets may become infested and not show early signs of infestation, and not all parasites can be seen in the stool without using a microscope. (Heartworms are a different type of parasite which must be diagnosed through a blood test, which we also offer).

In order to properly diagnose if your pet has parasites/Giardia, a stool sample must be viewed under a microscope. HEART sends all samples to an outside laboratory which provides results (usually within 24 hours), at which time we notify you and email you a copy of the lab report.



HEART Offers Inexpensive and Convenient Fecal Testing for Dogs & Cats



SIMPLE STEPS TO TAKE

√ Collect a stool sample and drop it off at any of our vaccine clinics. It must be collected on the same day you bring it to us. Place the sample in a clear, sealed plastic ziploc bag and place that bag inside another sealed plastic bag labeled with your name, phone number, and your pet's name. Keep the sample cool. You may keep it in the refrigerator but do not freeze it. We do not need to see your pet unless we are providing other services at the time of the clinic. No reservation is needed if we do not see your pet. Let our staff at our check-in station know that you are there just to drop off a fecal sample. Fee must be paid at time of sample drop-off.

Cost: \$39 (OVA w/Giardia test - recommended as follow-up test) \$59 (PCR test - recommended as initial test).

(Prices reflected above may change. Please check our website or ask our staff to confirm current pricing.)

Your Pet's Results:

We will notify you by email (usually within 24 hours) of the results and include a copy of your pet's lab report. If it is negative, no further action on your part is necessary.

If it is positive:

√ Contact your regular veterinarian immediately and provide him/her with a copy of the lab report so that he/she can dispense or prescribe the proper medication for your pet without delay. Your veterinarian may or may not need to see your pet, depending on when it was last seen by your veterinarian.

√ It is extremely important you properly disinfect toys, bedding, floors, carpets, and other surfaces which may have been contaminated. Use and maintain proper hygiene for your entire family.

√ Keep your pet away from other animals in order to minimize the risk of ongoing infestation and transmission to other pets and to your family.

√ An E-collar might also be recommended for your pet to wear during treatment. Ask your veterinarian.

√ A re-test of a fecal sample should be performed a couple of weeks after finishing all prescribed medication.

See reverse side for pictures & general descriptions of just a few common parasites.

TYPES OF PARASITES, SYMPTOMS & DANGERS

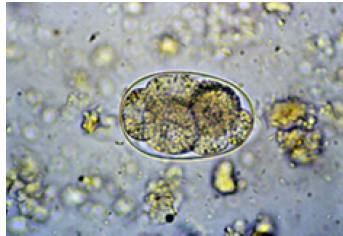
Intestinal parasites live in the gastrointestinal tract and can be a major cause of serious illness to your pet and even death. They can be transmitted between different species, including humans (Zoonosis). The parasites listed below are zoonotic. Although most pets infected with intestinal parasites show some type of symptoms, others may be asymptomatic (not showing any signs).

Symptoms differ depending on the parasite, but some common clinical signs include diarrhea, blood in stool, worms visible in stool or worm(s) seen near anus, bloating, potbellied appearance to abdomen, vomiting, constipation, anemia, weight loss, coughing and trouble breathing.

Some of the most common types of intestinal parasites affecting dogs and cats:



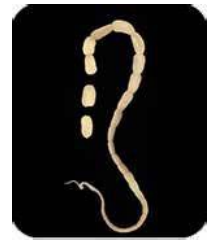
Giardia



Coccidia



Roundworms



Tapeworm



Hookworms



Whipworms



Giardia is a single celled parasitic species which is spread by fecal-oral transmission or by drinking contaminated water. Giardia lives in the small intestine and can affect your pet's ability to properly absorb nutrients, water, and electrolytes, which can lead to diarrhea and weight loss.

Coccidia is a protozoan parasite that lives in the wall of the intestine and can cause diarrhea in dogs and cats. Coccidia is most common in puppies but can also infect adult dogs as well as cats.

Roundworms are the most common internal parasites in dogs and cats. The adult worms have the appearance of spaghetti and sometimes can be seen in your pet's stool or vomit. Roundworm eggs are microscopic. There are several ways pets can become infected. Nursing puppies and kittens commonly get roundworms from an infected mother's milk which is why deworming is always recommended in puppies and kittens, while adult pets can acquire them by ingesting eggs from the feces of an infected animal.

Tapeworms are small and flat segmented parasites that can live in the intestine in many species. The adult tapeworm segments can be seen with the naked eye in the stool or stuck to fur around the anus and resemble a grain of rice, while Tapeworm eggs are microscopic. Tapeworms can cause vomiting and weight loss and they are acquired by ingesting an intermediate host, such as an infected flea or rodent.

Hookworms live primarily in the small intestine and feed on an animal's blood. Hookworms can cause life-threatening anemia, especially in puppies and kittens. Hookworm eggs are passed in the stool and hatch into larvae, and a dog/cat can become infected either through ingestion or skin contact.

Whipworms live in the cecum and colon (large intestine), where they attach to the mucosal lining. Dogs can become infected with whipworms by ingesting whipworm eggs which can be found in contaminated soil or other substances that may contain dog feces. Whipworms can cause anemia, dehydration, weight loss, diarrhea and bloody stools.