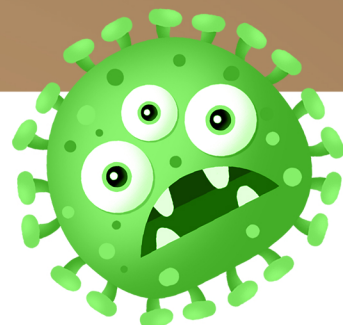


# Parasites



 *Understanding Giardia & Coccidia in Puppies*  
*An educational guide for Our Rottweiler puppy owners*

## ? What Are Giardia and Coccidia?

### *Giardia*

*A microscopic parasite that infects the intestines of dogs (and humans).*

*Puppies can pick it up from contaminated water, soil, or feces.*

*It causes Giardiasis, which leads to diarrhea and digestive upset.*

### *Coccidia*

*A protozoan parasite that lives in the intestines of dogs.*

*Puppies are most at risk, especially in high-stress environments (such as rehoming).*

*It spreads through ingestion of oocysts (eggs) found in contaminated soil, food, water, or feces.*

## ! Why Are Puppies at Risk?

*Puppies have immature immune systems, making them less able to fight off infection.*

*Stress (from moving to a new home, teething, or training) lowers immunity further.*

*Giardia and Coccidia are highly contagious in multi-dog households or kennels.*

## Symptoms to Watch For

*Both Giardia and Coccidia cause similar intestinal upset. Watch for:*

*Soft, watery, or mucus-covered diarrhea (sometimes with blood in Coccidia cases).*

*Foul-smelling stools.*

*Loss of appetite or picky eating.*

*Weight loss or poor growth despite eating.*

*Lethargy (less active, tired).*

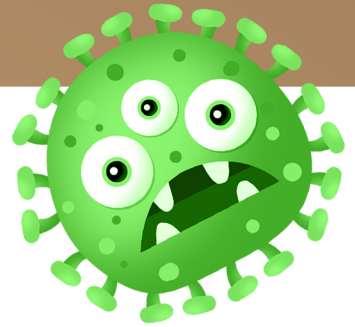
*Dehydration (dry gums, skin tenting).*

**!** *Severe infections can be life-threatening in young puppies if dehydration occurs.*



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## Prevention Tips

### Good Hygiene

*Pick up puppy stools immediately to limit contamination.*

*Disinfect areas with bleach solution (Giardia cysts are hardy and survive in the environment).*

### Clean Water Only

*Never allow puppies to drink from puddles, dams, or standing water.*

*Provide fresh, clean drinking water daily.*

### Safe Environment

*Keep puppy runs, playpens, and gardens clean and dry.*

*Avoid overcrowding dogs in one space.*

### Regular Vet Check-Ups

*Ask your vet about routine fecal exams to detect parasites early.*

*Keep deworming and parasite control up to date.*

## Treatment

*Veterinary care is essential – only prescription medications (such as Metronidazole or Fenbendazole for Giardia, and Sulfa drugs for Coccidia) will clear infections.*

*Home remedies and over-the-counter treatments are not effective.*

*Your vet may recommend retesting stools after treatment to ensure the parasites are gone.*

## Why Immediate Attention Matters

*Puppies can deteriorate quickly due to fluid loss from diarrhea.*

*Parasite infections can stunt growth and cause long-term digestive sensitivity.*

*Both Giardia and Coccidia are zoonotic risks (Giardia can infect humans too).*

## Key Takeaway for New Owners:

*Early detection and prevention are critical. Always monitor your Rottweiler puppy's stools, appetite, and energy levels. If diarrhea lasts more than 24 hours, or if you notice blood, lethargy, or rapid weight loss – contact your vet immediately.*



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