

## Pet Parasites Can Infect Humans Too!

Children, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems are the most at risk from parasites. In humans, parasites in the intestines can cause similar issues to those we see in pets. However, pet parasites also sometimes get lost in the human body and migrate to the liver, eyes, nervous system or other organs and cause more serious health concerns.

Frequently cleaning up your pet's waste along with good hygiene and hand washing habits are the best ways to prevent parasites from spreading between all the members of your family, pet and human alike.



## Have questions?

The staff at Chester Valley Veterinary Hospital would be happy to discuss your pet's risk for parasites and how you can give them the happiest, healthiest life possible.



CHESTER VALLEY VETERINARY HOSPITAL  
*helping pets enjoy every adventure*

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# Parasites in Alaska

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**Why does my veterinarian  
want poop?**

## How do I know if my pet has parasites?

If your pet has parasites, you might not see them in your pet's poop. Some parasites are microscopic, and many larger parasites lay microscopic eggs, these come out in the poop while the adults remain inside your pet, producing more and more eggs.

Parasites sometimes cause noticeable symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, dull hair coat or weight loss, but **even if your pet does not have any symptoms, they could still have a thriving parasitic infection.**

The best way to check if you pet has parasites is to have a laboratory examine a fecal sample. Chester Valley recommends that pets be screened for internal parasites with a fecal check at least once per year.



## Types of Parasites

There are lots of different parasites that pets can get, many of which can also be transmitted to humans. Here are just a few examples:

### **Roundworms**

One of the most common types of parasites, most dogs and cats will have at least one roundworm infection during their life. Puppies and kittens can easily get roundworm infections from their mother, even if she has been dewormed, as the worms can hide in the mammary glands and be transmitted in the milk.

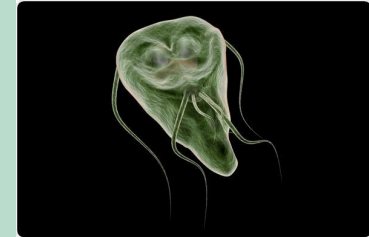


### **Tapeworms**

Often seen in pets that are hunters or fed a raw diet. Eating raw meat, birds, mice or other prey can lead to a tapeworm infection.

### **Giardia**

A microscopic parasite, giardia infections are sometimes referred to as “beaver fever”. In addition to contact with infected feces, you or your pet can get giardia by drinking from contaminated creeks, rivers or lakes.



### **Toxoplasma**

A single-celled, microscopic parasite that can be transmitted in cat feces. Pregnant women should be particularly careful, as toxoplasma infections can cause miscarriage, stillbirth or birth defects.

## Treating parasites

Most parasites are easily treated with medication. The exact medication, dosage and schedule of deworming will depend on the type of parasite your pet has. In addition to completing all veterinarian-recommended treatments, you should also bring in a new fecal sample once treatment is complete, to ensure that treatment was fully successful in getting rid of all the parasites.