



# GIARDIA

## Symptoms

- Diarrhea
- Lack of Appetite
- Inability to Gain Weight
- Stomach Distress
- Foul Breath

**Yes it's gross to talk about poop but we want you to be informed pet owners!**

We've been hearing from too many customers that their dogs have giardia, picking it up at local dog recreation areas and swim spots, especially during winter months. We've also seen puppies coming to their new homes already infected.

**Giardia is a protozoa that lives in the intestine of affected animals.** It's not rare, but not all animals actually get sick from it. It's easily spread in contaminated water, and can live in damp environments for quite some time in its cyst form. It's very difficult to find in fecal exams so multiple tests may be needed to verify it.

**The main symptom of giardiasis is diarrhea.** It may come and go, be of varying "quality," and may even look pale & greasy. If you've been changing foods thinking it was a food allergy but your pet still has diarrhea, it may be giardia. If you have diarrhea combined with an inability to gain weight you probably have giardia. Persistent giardia can also cause lack of appetite, stomach distress, and foul breath. Untreated giardiasis can lead to intestinal scarring and susceptibility to other diseases, so if in doubt, talk to your vet. Be aware that Flagyl, often used to treat giardia, also decimates the microbiome of the gut, so care must be taken to use it only if necessary, and to actively restore the microbiome afterward.

**A weakened immune system contributes to the growth of giardia in your dog's system.** This is why some dogs are unaffected by it while others are terribly ill. The immune system can be weakened by stress, poor intestinal health (lack of beneficial bacteria), a processed food diet, other health issues, and some medications (including some used to treat giardia)

## Product Suggestions

- Sustenance Herbs Giard-Ex
- Coconut Oil
- Four Leaf Rover Bifido for Fido
- Four Leaf Rover Gut Guard
- Herbal Energetics Pet Boost
- Sustenance Herbs Immune Mushroom Blend
- Answers Additional (raw cultured foods)
- Four Leaf Rover Colostrum

Online:

- [animalbiome.com](http://animalbiome.com)

**There are natural supplements that can prevent and treat most cases of giardiasis** when used correctly and consistently. Use a combination of these supplements if you suspect exposure to giardia, have a diagnosis, or simply to boost your pet's immune system and digestive health. Of course always consult with your veterinarian if you suspect giardia.

- **Probiotics:** Answers raw cultured dairy foods or supplements.
- **Anti-Parasitics:** Sustenance Herbs Giard-Ex (for dogs only), coconut oil
- **Immune Enhancing Herbs:** Sustenance Herbs Immune/Mushroom Blend, Herbal Energetics Pet Boost, Colostrum

**Don't just treat your pet's body - deal with the environment too.**

- Avoid parks (especially dog parks) and freshwater recreation areas until your dog's infestation is resolved (don't spread it around!)
- Clean everything repeatedly during infestation/treatment. Soap and hot water should be used for floors, bedding, bowls, grooming equipment, etc. Clean up feces immediately and dispose of them in plastic bags. While we don't normally recommend the use of chlorine bleach, a 1:32 dilution kills giardia cysts quickly.
- The best long-term defense is dryness and heat, so let your yard and patio dry out. If your landscaped areas are always damp they may continue to harbor giardia.

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