



Giardiasis

This is an increasingly common cause of diarrhea in domestic dogs and occasionally cats.

Giardia canis is a parasitic protozoa causing gastroenteritis and a soft, pale brown voluminous diarrhea. It is notoriously difficult to eradicate and can persist in the environment, especially water logged areas. Hadedas for example can harbour and spread infection through their faeces.

It can be diagnosed with a simple stool test. Depending on the severity of your pets infestation one of two courses of treatment will be initiated. It is imperative the dosage instructions are adhered to closely. All animals on your property will be treated in some form or another. In conjunction with the medication to ensure the best chance of eradicating the disease you need to manage the environment. This means picking up all faeces twice daily for the duration of treatment and disposing of it off the property, not putting it in the compost heap. You will also need to bath ALL animals undergoing treatment on D5, D10, D15 and D20. To avoid recurrence it is best to attempt to dry up any water logged areas in your garden as well as treat any hard surfaces with 1% bleach solution.

Your pet will be declared free of Giardia with a repeat negative stool test.

It is very important to note that the medication used to treat Giardia are given at high doses and at these high doses can be neurotoxic to your pet. This is completely reversible within 10 days if signs are picked up early and medication stopped immediately. Signs of neurotoxicity are weak, wobbly back legs.

Giardiasis is a zoonosis which means that you are at risk of infection, for this reason it is imperative to wear gloves when handling faeces or bathing your pet and to visit your GP if you develop gastro.

Above all if you are worried or uncertain please do not hesitate to call or come in. We will be more than happy to help.

Regards FVC team

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