

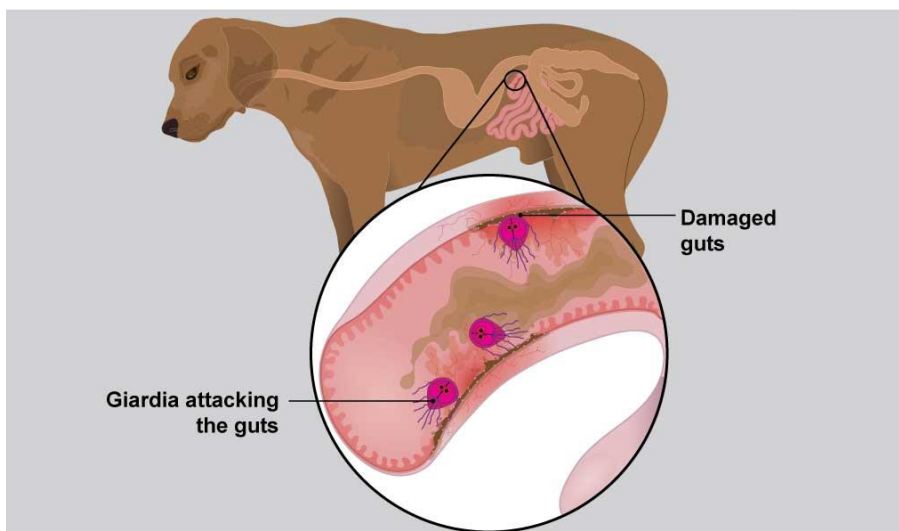
Giardia in dogs

Overview

- Giardia is a small parasite that causes diarrhoea by attacking the lining of the guts.
- Giardia spreads in poo – dogs catch it when they are exposed to infected poo particles (in water, food or the environment).
- It often takes more than one course of treatment to cure giardia.
- Humans and other animals can catch giardia.

Giardia explained

Giardia is a tiny parasite that causes diarrhoea by attacking the lining of the guts. It causes very watery, pungent smelling diarrhoea that often contains blood.



Giardia attacks the lining of the guts - causing diarrhoea.

Symptoms

- Smelly, watery diarrhoea
- Diarrhoea containing blood
- Weight loss
- Farting (flatulence)
- Eating less
- Vomiting

When to contact your vet

Contact your vet if you are concerned your dog may have giardia or they have any of the symptoms above. It's a good idea to call your vet for advice if your dog has been in contact with another dog who's recently been diagnosed with giardia.

Diarrhoea left for too long can lead to dehydration. Book an appointment with your vet immediately if your dog has any of the following symptoms:

- Diarrhoea for more than 2-3 days
- Intermittent diarrhoea for 2 weeks or more
- Young puppy or an elderly dog with diarrhoea
- Diarrhoea and other health issues
- Diarrhoea whilst taking medication

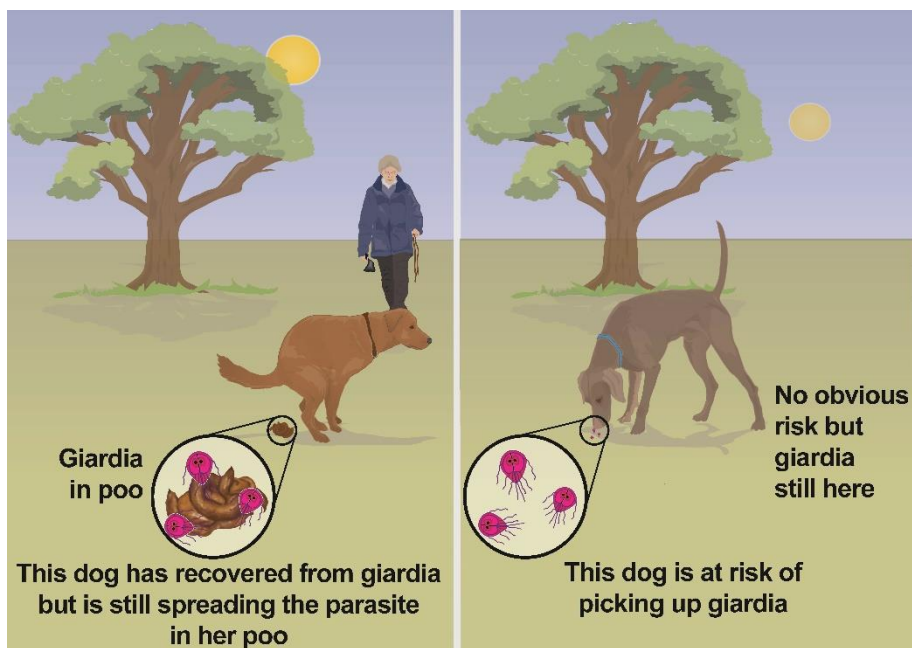
You know your dog best. If they don't have the symptoms listed above but you are still concerned it's always best to contact your vet.

How did my dog catch Giardia?

Giardia spreads in poo, your dog could have caught it anywhere they've encountered infected poo particles, e.g.

- contaminated water
- contaminated food
- contact with an infected dog
- in the environment

Giardia can hang around for months. Even once an infected poo has been cleared away, giardia bugs can continue living where they were dropped.



Giardia spreads in poo and can live in the environment for months

Humans can catch giardia so it's important to wash your hands after cleaning up dog poo or meeting a dog with diarrhoea.

Treatment

Your vet may ask for a poo sample to help diagnose your dog, so it may be helpful to collect one before the appointment. Visit our website to watch a video on how to collect a poo sample from your dog.

Your vet may prescribe:

- **Worming treatment**
- **Antibiotics**

Many dogs need more than one course of treatment.

If your dog has developed severe diarrhoea and become unwell, they may need admitting into the veterinary hospital for more intensive treatment (e.g. a drip to give fluids directly into their blood stream, injectable medications and careful feeding).

Outlook

Your dog's diarrhoea should improve a couple of weeks after treatment; however, some dog's need more than one course of treatment to cure the problem.

Once your dog has recovered from giardia, it's uncommon for ongoing problems to develop. Speak to your vet if you have any concerns.

Published: July 2018