

Giardia – It'll scare the guts out of you!





Top:

Image: Labrador Puppy and EKH Kitten
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But don't panic!

Every dog and cat owner will begin to worry when they hear that Giardia has been diagnosed in their pet.

Treatment with medication usually begins when Giardia are detected in a stool test, even if the animal doesn't have diarrhoea. Diagnosis often comes with the following instructions: Disinfect all sleeping areas using hot steam cleaning or chemical agents, and wash all cushions and mats in the washing machine at no less than 60°C. This is a repetitive process, and undoubtedly, a massive effort: Coupled with risk to your own health. Is the aim to lose the joy of having a pet?

No, it is not.

We can help you! Below we have put together some information for you: You can also call us if you need help, we will always make time for you!

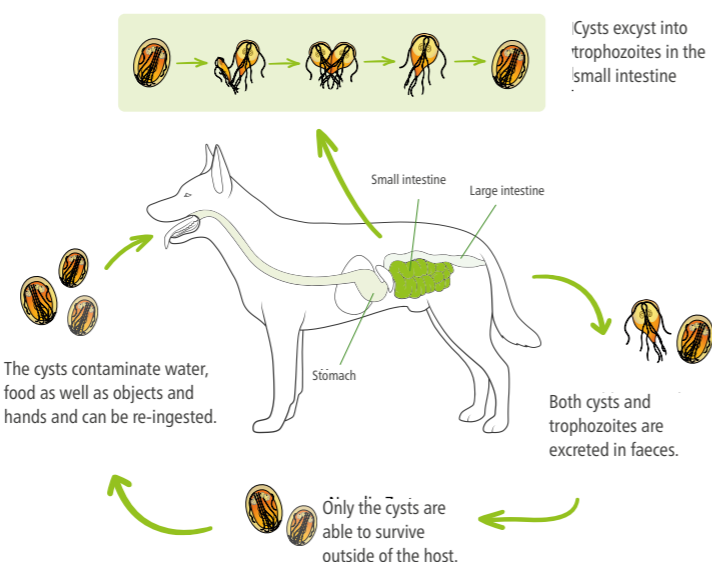
Our customer service team is here for you!
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Image:

The life cycle of Giardia in dogs.

Giardia enters the body once trophozoites, protected by their cystic outer shell, are ingested. They then migrate to the small intestine and replicate in their active form. During what is known as encystation, trophozoites are protected from external influences in the gut by their outer shell and expelled from the body in the infected animal's faeces. The cysts are ingested by sniffing or drinking contaminated water.

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The diagnosis

Many dogs and cats, as well as guinea pigs, rabbits, and chinchillas, carry trophozoites. These are replicating parasites that can shed in cystic form. This is why trophozoites can often be found in faeces, even when the animal shows no signs of diarrhoea and appears healthy. The immune system's defence cells manage to keep them in check, and similarly, these defence cells also control many other types of microbes.

Laboratory tests aren't always required to detect Giardiasis. You can also see and smell it. The faeces is slimy and watery, with a horrible rotten-sweet smell, reminiscent of a cadaver. Most of the affected animals don't appear to be sick. However, this is not always the case. There can be severe symptoms, including abdominal pain, cramps, nausea, and a loss of appetite. In extreme cases, it can cause fever, chills, and weight loss. Giardia won't show up in blood tests.

The pathogen

Giardia (*Giardia lamblia*) live in two stages: as fragile trophozoites and in a hard cystic form. The trophozoites cling to the intestinal wall and feed on the mucus of the small intestine and its contents. Trophozoites are reproductive organisms and form cysts. They exit the body in the faeces and are ingested by other animals through water and food. If they reach the digestive tract, they develop into trophozoites in the small intestine, bind to it, and can then cause the typical symptoms expected in cases of giardiasis.

It is estimated that 70% of all dogs are infected. This has likely always been true, but could not definitely be confirmed in the past. From our experience, once a dog has Giardia, it is unlikely to ever be completely free of the pathogen again. It can, and must, learn to live with it.

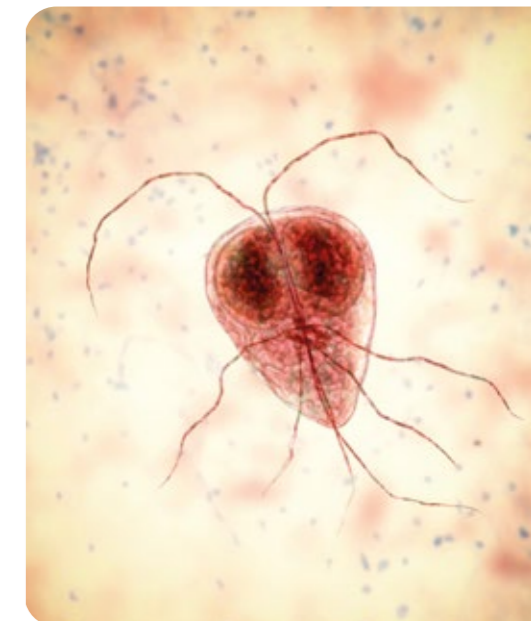
Giardia are single-celled organisms that do not house mitochondria. This means they cannot generate energy by burning glucose as is the case in humans or our pets. They generate energy anaerobically, meaning without oxygen, through fermentation. This fermentation process, a technique also deployed by cancer cells, yields only one-nineteenth of the energy of aerobic methods. For this reason, Giardia need large amounts of starch or sugar to survive and reproduce.

Causes and conditions

High-starch pet food often provides Giardia with an optimal breeding ground. Starch is broken down into sugar in the first section of the small intestine of dogs and cats by the enzyme amylase, which Giardia then make use of.

Most puppies are fed high-starch food, even if they are hardly able to eat it. Because of their undeveloped gut flora, it is puppies and young animals that are most commonly diagnosed with Giardia. Most infected adult animals are fed dry food. This high-starch feed creates the ideal conditions for Giardia.

The percentage of starch in canned food is often also very high. The packaging label usually does not indicate the starch content, as it is not required to be listed. The approximate amount can only be determined by examining analytical values and food composition. We can help you with this.



Top:

Image: Giardia trophozoite (Giardia lamblia)
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You can read more about sugar and starch and how it affects the body here.

Plant portrait

Marigold flowers *Calendula officinalis*

Nowadays, no other flower more accurately represents traditional European herbal medicine than the marigold. It was almost forgotten, only being used as an aesthetically pleasing garnish for tea.

Important components:

Flavonoids, saponins, carotenoids, essential oils.

External applications:

For fungal infections of the skin, to treat eczema and wounds, for skin care and regeneration, and to help with paw infections.

Internal applications:

For gut health, inflammation of the mucous membrane of the mouth, throat, stomach, and intestines, boosts the immune system, has anti-parasitic properties, combats single-cell organisms, and is very effective when used in combination with beard lichens.

The marigold has anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties, and its wound-healing capabilities are equally as effective on the skin and the mucous membranes. It helps relieve intestinal irritation, especially after the use of medications and anti-worming agents. Marigold fortifies the gut flora and inhibits the development of unwanted single-cell organisms.

Marigold contains no sesquiterpenelactones, which are partly responsible for Asteraceae-related allergy symptoms.



Help from nature

Previously, our focus was on the nutrition and health of poultry, which often suffer from trichomoniasis. The organisms are closely related to Giardia. We developed products based on the properties of marigold and beard lichens (*Usnea barbata*), which can also be supplemented with Katlement, Katzengarten as well as lithoamium algae lime for calcium, to combat these pathogens and, as part of a scientific study at the University of Leipzig, assessed their impact on trichomonads. The study showed that beard lichens eliminated more than 95% of trichomonads.

We transposed these insights to our research of Giardia and developed the product **Usniotica**. **Usniotica** alters the gut environment, making conditions very challenging for Giardia to survive.

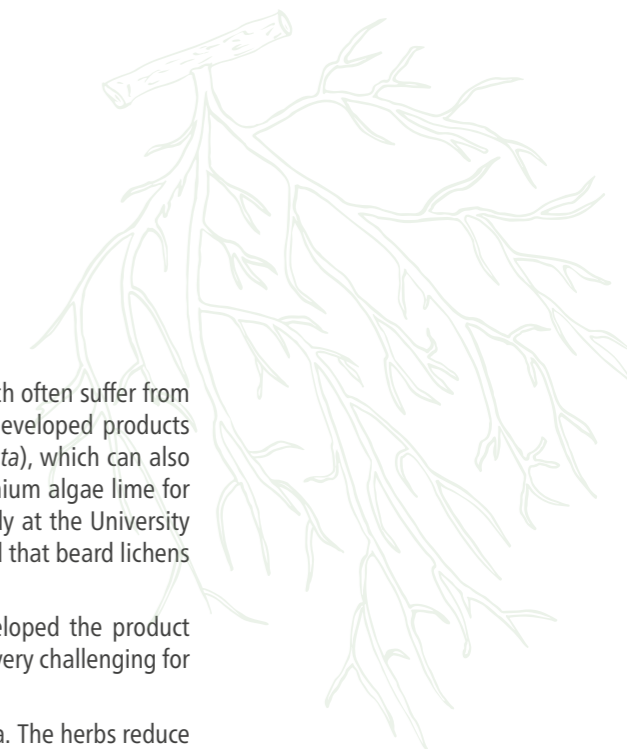
Enterogan for dogs and **Intestin** for cats promote beneficial gut flora. The herbs reduce the growth of unwanted microbes and single-celled organisms in the digestive tract. They strengthen and support your pet's digestive system in cases of soft stool and high infection load.

The short-chain pectins in **Garon forte** contain high levels of galacturonic acid that help bind toxins, harmful microbes, and excess fluid in the gut, rapidly combating diarrhoea. **Garon forte** helps with digestive problems and stabilises the gut flora.

The problem is usually under control within 10-14 days. If the animal is very weak, **Kolsal products** can help it recover.

Immunoglobulin type A (IgA) is another highly effective substance for protecting the intestinal mucosa. These can be found in **Kolsal colostrum**, a product, which is derived from highly purified bovine colostrum, the first milk produced direct after the birth of a calf. IgAs block the docking points for Giardia on the intestinal wall.

If conventional treatments with worming agents and/or antibiotics have already been administered, restoring the gut flora takes a bit longer. We recommend using **KoProStop** during this period to help dogs.



Garon forte
Starting at 100g

Moro carrot soup
400ml

Kolsal - colostrum
125ml

KoProStop
Starting at 100g



Top:

Image: MainCoon © AdobeStock | FurryFritz

Our recommendations for cats

1. We would recommend you stop giving your cat dry food immediately. Do not feed wet food that is high in starch together with potatoes, pasta, rice, corn, bananas or soya, oatmeal, sorghum, amaranth, etc.

Cats don't need starch – at all! For this reason, you should avoid food containing starch!

It is better to feed the animals meats, our **canned meat** or **pure canned meat**, if necessary, supplemented with **Katlement**, **Katzengarten**, and **lithothamnium algae lime** for calcium. Use **organic dandelion juice** regularly to strengthen their gut flora.

2. As a probiotic, give your cat a small piece of feta cheese made from sheep's milk, then, continue to feed sheep's feta for several more days. They are generally more than happy to eat two to three teaspoons per day, ideally mixed with a pinch of **Katzengarten**.
3. In our opinion, the most important plant-based substance to combat Giardia in cats is **Usniotica**. Add 5-10 drops of Usniotica to cat food three times daily for five days. If necessary, it can be administered for a few days longer.

If they reject the food, apply **Usniotica** to the fur in ribcage area and allow your pet to ingest it during when grooming.

4. It often makes sense to combine it with **Intestin**. If this is too much, then administer **Usniotica** and **Intestin** on alternating days. **Intestin** can also be applied to the fur in the ribcage area.
5. If your cat does not have diarrhoea, we recommend giving it **Usniotica** and **Intestin**, interchangeably throughout the week. Acute bouts of diarrhoea can be stopped by using **Garon forte** (from our range of dog products); **Moro carrot soup**. If your cat is in a very weak state, you can help boost its immune system by giving it a product from our **Kolsal** range.

Other effective products for protecting the gut and strengthening immune defences are **Kolsal colostrum**, **organic echina juice** and **organic dandelion juice**. **Olibanum frankincense powder** or **organic turmeric-myrrh oil** are also effective and happily accepted by most cats.



Organic dandelion juice
Starting at 100ml and up

Intestin
Starting at 50g

Usniotica
Starting at 50ml and up

Enterogan
Starting at 100g

Our recommendation for dogs

1. Day 1 is a fasting day for dogs from 6 months of age. On this day, give them only a small portion of sheep's feta (authentic feta cheese made from sheep's milk, not cow's milk).

Begin normal feeding again on Day 2. Avoid feed high-starch foods, this also applies to treats! "Grain-free" food also contains high levels of starch, e.g., from potatoes, bananas, or millet. Provide a homemade bland diet made of lean meat with vegetables (e.g., fennel or courgette) or our **Schonkost CuraCanis Digestive and Pancreatic Health bland diet**. The following are excellent long-term alternatives, **pure tinned meat with Komplement**, **meat-and-bone meal**, **Farmstead Mix** and **salmon** or **hemp oil**.

2. Continue feeding sheep's feta as a natural probiotic for several days. Depending on the size of the dog, administer one tablespoon twice a day, ideally mixed with our **30 Herb Garden Mix**. The feta-herb mix can be included as part of the diet over the long term or even permanently, and offers highly effective support for a healthy gut environment.
3. In our opinion, **Usniotica** is the most effective plant-based substance to combat Giardia. Depending on your dog's weight, up to a maximum of 3 x one teaspoon. Administer 3 x 10-15 drops of **Usniotica**, daily for 10 to 14 days, and a few days longer if needed.
4. Give your dog **Enterogan** twice daily, in the morning and evening, mixed in with the daily portion of food. Depending on the dog's weight, you can administer a dose between a pinch and 2 small measuring spoons.
5. If your dog does not have diarrhoea, giving them **Usniotica** and **Enterogan** interchangeably each day is sufficient. Acute bouts of diarrhoea can be stopped by using **Garon forte** or our **Moro carrot soup**. If your dog is in a very weak state, you can help boost their immune system by giving them products from our **Kolsal** range.

Other effective products for protecting the gut and strengthening immune defences are **organic echina juice** and **organic dandelion juice**.



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Image: Dalmatian © AdobeStock | DoraZett

Do you have any questions or do you need help?
Write in or call us! We will always make time for you!

Our customer service team is here for you!
Monday to Thursday from 08:00 - 18:00,
Friday from 08:00 - 17:00, and
Saturday from 09:00 - 12:00.

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