

Unfortunately parasites are a common occurrence in pets. 1 in 10 of the pets that we test are positive for at least one parasite. Some parasites are Zoonotic meaning they can be transferred to us. Young children and elderly people are more susceptible to acquiring parasites from pets. Most of the parasites can not be seen by the naked eye. The parasites that can be seen are only seen for a short time during the lifecycle of the parasite. When we do an Intestinal Parasite Stool Exam we will be able to look at the eggs of the parasite and better identify the parasite.



1) Toxocara Canis egg: Type of Roundworm

- Zoonotic (Can be transferred from pets to people)
- Roundworms feed on partially digested food in the intestinal tract of the host
- Pets can be born with Roundworms or they can acquire them from other pets or wildlife

- 2) *Ancylostoma Caninum* egg: Type of Hookworm
 - Zoonotic (Can be transferred from pets to people)
 - Hookworms feed on blood from the intestinal wall
 - Pets can acquire Hookworms orally or through their skin from microscopic eggs found in the soil, they can also acquire them from the mother's milk or through the mother's placenta before birth
- 3) *Isospora* egg: Coccidia
 - Coccidia is a Protozoan parasite (one-celled organism)
 - Often there are no clinical symptoms or this parasite
 - Pets can acquire Coccidia from other pets depositing the eggs on the soil and from wildlife
- 4) *Toxocara Canis* worm: Type of Roundworm
 - This is the same parasite as #1 above, just a different stage in the life cycle
 - You will not always see the "worm" in the stool, only at a certain point in the lifecycle will you find the actual "worm" and they are not always detected
- 5) *Ancylostoma Caninum* worm: Type of Hookworm
 - This is the same parasite as #2 above, just a different stage in the life cycle
 - The "worm" is only about 3 mm long and very tiny, they are very difficult to see with the naked eye
- 6) *Trichuris Vulpis* egg: Type of Whipworm
 - Whipworms live in the large intestine and cause severe irritation
 - Pets acquire Whipworms from the soil, the eggs of the whipworm can live in the environment for up to 5 years
- 7) *Dipylidium Caninum* egg: Type of Tapeworm
 - This type of Tapeworm is acquired from ingesting a flea
 - Tapeworms are flat worms that are made up of segments, you may find the small segments around the anus of the pet or on/in the stool. The segments look like a grain of rice
- 8) *Taenia* egg: Type of Tapeworm
 - This type of Tapeworm is acquired from ingesting rodents
 - Tapeworms attach to the wall of the small intestine