

Coccidia in Dogs

Background:

Coccidiosis is an infection with a one-celled organism; these organisms are classified as protozoa and are called coccidia. Coccidia are not worms; they are microscopic parasites which live within cells of the intestinal lining. Because they live in the intestinal tract and commonly cause diarrhea, they are often confused with worms.

How did my dog become infected with coccidia?

Oocysts (immature coccidia) are passed in the stool of the dog. They lie in the environment and eventually sporulate (mature) into a more developed oocyst which can infect the dog again. Other dogs, cats, or mice may also become infected. This process can occur in as little as 6 hours, but it usually takes 7-10 days. If the sporulated oocysts are swallowed, they mature in the dog's intestine to complete the life cycle. If the oocysts should be swallowed by a mouse, the dog may also become infected by eating the mouse.

Are disinfectants effective against Coccidiosis?

No, disinfectants do not offer efficacy against Coccidia or other parasites, such as Giardia. Here is a protocol to help control the spread of Coccidia:

Step 1:

Bathe the infected dog to remove any trace of feces from the coat. Rinse well and isolate the dog until the infection is completely gone.

Note: Remove all animals, food and water dishes, bedding blankets and toys from the area before starting the cleaning process.

Step 2:

Sweep floors thoroughly to remove debris and hair that may be contaminated. Make sure that no fecal matter remains in the area. Thoroughly clean and wash bedding and blankets.

Step 3:

Apply a solution of 2 to 4 ounces of **Kennel & Turf Care Bioenzymatic** per gallon of water to floors, walls, synthetic pet turf, exterior substrate and all surfaces touched by both humans and animals. We recommend applying the solution using a hose-end foam gun, when possible, which will allow the solution to cling to vertical surfaces. **Kennel & Turf Care** will degrade the organic matter (HOST) to help remove the bio film, which can harbor Coccidia and other odor and disease-causing parasites, bacteria and viruses.

Addition Precautionary Steps:

- a) Wear one pair of shoes to the workplace and keep one pair of shoes to use at the workplace. This will help minimize the spread of the parasite.
- b) Wear protective gloves when handling infected animals. Change gloves before handling the next dog.
- c) Clean and sanitize food and water dishes, toys and tools that are used in the cleaning process including brooms, brushes, squeegees, mop handles, mops, etc..



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