



## HOW TO COLLECT A FECAL SAMPLE

1. Wear gloves.
2. Collect a fresh sample that is still soft and moist (less than 2 hrs. old).
3. Use a disposable utensil such as a wooden tongue depressor to collect a sample, or ask your practice for a fecal collection pot. Collect a sample that is at least as big as a \$2 coin or two sugar cubes.
4. Place a sample in a sterile container and make sure the lid is on tight. Clean the outside of the container after the lid has been sealed.
5. Take the sample to your vet as soon as you can. If you can't take the sample in immediately, store in a fridge or cool place.



**Reference:** 1. Canadian Parasitology Expert Panel Guidelines for the management of parasites in dogs and cats. <https://research-groups.usask.ca/cpep/index.php#Protocol>. Accessed 3-30-21.

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF FECAL TESTING



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## WHY DO FECAL TESTING?

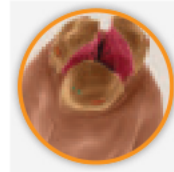
- Fecal testing helps keep your pet healthy and your family safe.
- It identifies worms and other parasites in your pet's stools, allowing your vet to recommend the right treatment.
- It's hard to tell if your pet has gastrointestinal parasites, as they may not show any signs of infection.
- For a number of reasons your pet could still have worms even if you use a deworming treatment regularly.
- In puppies and kittens, gastrointestinal parasites can lead to diarrhea, vomiting, severe blood loss or life-threatening intestinal blockages.
- Even adult pets can become very sick from gastrointestinal parasites.
- Some worms are zoonotic, which means they can infect people too. Young children are more at risk.

“ **Fecal parasitological examinations should be performed twice in the first 6 months of the animal's life.<sup>1</sup>**

**All dogs and cats > 6 months of age should have at least 1-2 fecal parasitological examinations per year and be assessed for risk of parasitic infection.<sup>1</sup> ”**



## WHAT PARASITES ARE WE LOOKING FOR?



ROUNDWORM



HOOKWORM



WHIPWORM



TAPEWORM



COCCIDIA



GIARDIA

