



## COCCIDIA

### What is Coccidia?

Coccidiosis is an intestinal infection, associated with the one-celled parasite *Isospora canis* in dogs or *Isospora felis* in cats. Other species of *Isospora* may be present too. However, it is strictly host specific, so there is no cross-transmission between dogs and cats (and humans).

### Where Did the Coccidia Come From?

Infected dogs or cats contaminate environment with oocysts (eggs) of *Isospora* spp. These are then ingested by the puppy or kitten. Stress in the puppy or kitten can allow the coccidia to become more likely to cause a problem. Also, they can be carried by an intermediate host, such as a mouse.

### What Are the Symptoms of Coccidia?

In mild infections, the pet may appear to be normal. Watery to mucoid, occasionally blood-tinged diarrhea can develop. Weak puppies and kittens or poor developers are sometimes seen.

### How is It Diagnosed?

Fecal examinations are done for the oocysts. Sometimes the stool will be negative, only to become positive with stress or other disease conditions.

### How is It Treated?

It is usually treated with a sulfa (Sulfadimethoxine) for 4 to 20 days or until the pet shows no symptoms of coccidia. Fluid therapy may be necessary if the pet is dehydrated or the condition is complicated by bacterial infection.

### Follow-Up

A fecal examination for oocysts after the treatment period can determine if a longer treatment may be indicated.

### Call Us If...

- Your pet has persistent diarrhea.
- Your pet's health worsens or it loses weight.

Special instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

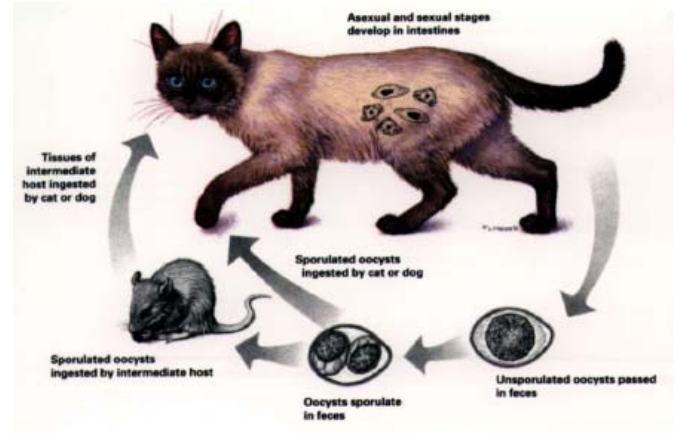
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*Thank you for this opportunity to serve you!*