Giardia Lamblia (AKA giardiasis or beaver fever)

**Symptoms:**
Loss of appetite, diarrhoea, nausea, stomach pain, gas, bloating, weight loss.

The most common means of infestation comes from ingestion of water that has been infected by an organism in the fecal matter of fish and other animals. Animals tend to be more resistant to it than humans are and the severity of the infestation depends on the overall health of the host! Symptoms manifest after 7-10 days after ingestion. It can also occur from contaminated food as well.

The organism infects the lining of the digestive tract and can invade the liver. Malabsorption of nutrients occurs when the parasites damage the absorptive surface of the intestinal lining (intestinal villi). If it is left untreated it can lead to other diseases such as eczema, arthritis and irritable bowel/chrone’s disease.

According to [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) (on-line encyclopedia) it is one of the most common parasites that infects cats, it is more of a "puppy problem" than an adult one, and it is the most frequent non-bacteria cause of diarrhea. They also say that 30% of the canine population under one year old is infected while in kennels.

It is getting to be that time of year (spring) where many people will come into the store and mention their pet’s diarrhea. Giardia is a VERY common reason for this.

**Standard drug treatment**
The information below was taken from [www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov](http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov) the article is called “the impact of giardia vaccination on a symptomatic giardia infections in dogs at a research facility”.

Current treatments for canine *Giardia* infections include metronidazole (Flagyl) and fenbendazole. Metronidazole can cause gastrointestinal side effects and dizziness. It has a treatment success rate of approximately 67% in dogs. Fenbendazole has fewer side effects than metronidazole. Some cases of *Giardia* infected dogs have failed to respond to treatment with both metronidazole and fenbendazole. Albendazole has been shown to be effective in the treatment of *Giardia* in dogs but has been associated with bone marrow toxicosis and is no longer recommended. There is a giardia vaccine for dogs now.

For suggestions, books, supplements, and a large selection of healthy pet foods, grapefruit seed extract, slippery elm and Petzlife, please visit the Copperfield Tail Blazers.

The information in this article should in no way replace regular veterinary care from a qualified Holistic Veterinarian.