



## Guide Dogs for the Blind

### ***Heathy Habits Reminder about Puppy Poop Safety*** **Remember to wash your hands!**

Ever wonder what the word “zoonotic” means? Zoonotic diseases are ones that can be passed from animals to humans. There are actually quite a few “bugs” that can be found in dog feces which can cause illness in people. Some examples include bacteria, like E. coli or Salmonella, and parasites, like giardia and roundworms. These bacteria and parasites can be shed in the stool of normal, healthy animals, so it is safest to assume that all dog feces could contain something zoonotic.

One of the best ways to prevent these zoonotic diseases is to promptly pick up after the puppy. Many parasites or bacteria are not infectious immediately but become infectious over time and may contaminate the soil if they are not picked up promptly. ***The other very important thing to do is to wash your hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water after playing with the puppy or picking up its feces.***

One of the boxes below will be checked **IF** the puppy you are receiving was previously diagnosed and treated for one of the following puppy diarrhea conditions:

- IF this box is marked**, this puppy was previously diagnosed with Campylobacter.
- IF this box is marked**, this puppy was previously exposed to Campylobacter. It never developed clinical signs associated with Campylobacter but was housed in a building that had puppies with Campylobacter.
- IF this box is marked**, this puppy was previously diagnosed with Cryptosporidium.
- IF this box is marked**, this puppy was previously diagnosed with Salmonella.

***Additional information on these conditions is included on the back of this handout.***

Any puppy previously diagnosed with these conditions has been appropriately treated and determined to be healthy before leaving campus.

If a box has been checked, we recommend you to share this with your local veterinarian.  
Any puppy with persistent diarrhea should be evaluated by a veterinarian.

*If you have questions, please contact the Veterinary Financial Assistant Team at 1-800-295-4050.*



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

## Additional Disease Information

### **Campylobacter**

- Campylobacter is a very common intestinal bacteria in healthy pets. Campylobacter is more likely to cause diarrhea in dogs less than six months old or ones living in a kennel.
- Humans also commonly contract Campylobacter from raw/undercooked meat, unpasteurized milk, contact with live chickens or cattle, swimming in natural water sources (e.g. lakes, ponds), and drinking untreated water. Contact with pets is also one of the ways people can contract Campylobacter. Diarrhea is the most common symptom in people.

### **Cryptosporidium**

- Cryptosporidium is a single-celled intestinal parasite of animals and humans that can cause diarrhea, but often causes no symptoms at all.
- People are most likely to contract Cryptosporidium by contact with infected animals (particularly calves), visiting farm, drinking contaminated water, child daycare facilities, and traveling to developing countries where Cryptosporidium is more common.
- In general, contact with pets is not associated with the risk of cryptosporidiosis, even in immunocompromised patients.

### **Salmonella**

- Dogs can become infected with salmonella bacteria by ingesting contaminated food or water, or licking/chewing on contaminated toys or surfaces.
- Many infected dogs do not show any clinical signs, or only experience mild disease which does not require medical treatment. Puppies, elderly dogs, and ill/stressed dogs are more susceptible to illness after Salmonella exposure. With proper veterinary treatment, most of these cases have a very good outcome.
- Dogs can intermittently shed Salmonella in their feces for several weeks after they become infected. Antibiotic treatment is not recommended for healthy dogs with intermittent Salmonella shedding because it can prolong the shedding time and contribute to development of antibiotic resistance.

Additional information about these and many other common dog diseases can be found at:

#### **Worms & Germs Blog**

*Drs. Scott Weese and Maureen Anderson*

*Ontario Veterinary College's Center for Public Health and Zoonoses*

<https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/resources-pets/>