



Giardien

Important information

What are Giardia?

Giardia lamblia or *intestinalis* are single-celled parasites (protozoa) and the pathogens that cause giardiasis. An infection causes diarrhea and vomiting in dogs. *Giardia* occurs worldwide and can also be transmitted to humans. There are different genotypes and not all of them affect every animal. Some only occur in certain animal species, others spread to several species as well as humans.

A so-called homoxenous life cycle is typical for these parasites. This means that they only develop in a host. The dog ingests the *Giardia* as cysts from its environment. They then become trophozoites in the small intestine due to the stomach pH value and the bile, which are in the active life form and multiply. They are then distributed inside and in the mucous membrane of the small intestine and sometimes the large intestine. There they feed on the mucus of the intestine and, in particular, on carbohydrates from the food pulp.

In order to multiply, they divide lengthwise and further cysts form. If a dog has *Giardia*, it excretes it in its feces. In this way, other animals can become infected with the protozoa if they sniff it or eat it.

How does the treatment work *Giardia* in dogs?

First of all, a specialist should examine the disease actually determine.

Does your four-legged friend have typical ones? symptoms, you should take him to the vet immediately go. He can diagnose giardiasis and knows what to do against *Giardia* in dogs. The diagnosis is made via a fecal sample. If you the vet because your furry friend has diarrhea If you visit, ideally bring these with you Investigation.

Does the vet have giardia in your dog? diagnosed, sees the treatment the following:

- Give medication
- Treat any other existing illnesses as well
- Hygiene measures: daily cleaning of berths and bowls with hot water above 65° C
Berths work with washable sheets or towels that can be changed daily
- For long-haired dogs: Shearing the fur on the dog's bottom
- All animals living in your household, dogs and cats, must be treated, even if they do not show typical *Giardia* symptoms such as diarrhea

Furthermore, it can contribute to the success of the treatment if the *Giardia* infection in dogs is treated with special food. A highly digestible, low-carbohydrate diet can have a supporting effect because the parasites in the intestines feed mainly on carbohydrates. Grain-free dog food, for example, contains potatoes instead of carbohydrate-rich grains and may be suitable for a special diet if *Giardia* in dogs needs to be treated. Find out from your vet about the right diet for your furry friend.

How long is a dog with *Giardia* contagious?

As long as your furry friend carries the parasites, he can pass them on. You should administer the medication prescribed by the vet exactly as he instructed. Once therapy has ended, the veterinarian should receive another fecal sample. He checks these and if the result is negative, your dog no longer has *Giardia* and is therefore no longer contagious.