

COCCIDIOSIS

Coccidiosis is a parasite disease of the intestinal tract caused by microscopic organisms call COCCIDIA. The disease spreads from one animal to another by contact with infected feces. It is most severe in young or weak animals and often causes bloody diarrhea. The disease is not a threat to humans.

STRONGYLOIDES INFECTION

Strongyloides stercoralis is a small roundworm found in cats, dogs, foxes, and occasionally people. The worms are about 1/16 of an inch long and live in the intestinal lining. Eggs hatch while still in the intestine. Larvae are passed in the feces and can reinfect the host animal or others by being eaten or by skin penetration.

Loss of appetite, cough, discharge from eyes, and later development of diarrhea are signs of infection. The disease lowers resistance to other infections and may resemble or occur with canine distemper.

People are usually infected by larvae that penetrate the bare feet as a person walks through contaminated soil. The larvae travel to the lungs via the bloodstream and then are passed into the feces within 2 to 3 weeks.