

*“Pearls”
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Veterinary Medicine*



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AT A GLANCE

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Behavior

Muzzle Up Project

A comprehensive, user-friendly website featuring step-by-step muzzle training tutorials for dog owners, plus downloadable resources for veterinarians to share with clients. Designed to promote safe, stress-free muzzle acclimation through clear instructions, videos, and expert tips. muzzleupproject.com

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Clinical Pathology

Bile Acids Algorithm

Idexx has a useful bile acids algorithm that can be accessed and downloaded [here](#).

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Gastroenterology - Parasitology

Treating infectious diarrhea – general principles

Unless the pet exhibits severe diarrhea that may lead to sepsis or bacterial translocation, use diet, fiber and probiotics instead of antibiotics. Metronidazole damages the commensal bile-acid-metabolizing microbiota while

exhibiting mutagenicity toward both microbial and host DNA. [\[ref\]](#) Dietary fiber inhibits parasite adherence—canine studies support adding fiber (for example, psyllium) along with Enterococcus lactis-based probiotics (FortiFlora). FortiFlora **Pro** includes both psyllium and the probiotic, E. lactis SF68 (older terminology listed E. faecalis SF68). [\[ref\]](#) If the animal is vomiting and having small bowel diarrhea, a highly digestible, bland diet is used, whereas a high fiber diet is indicated for large bowel diarrhea.

Michael Lappin, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, 2025 Fred Scott Feline Cap Rep (2025).43(10):1

Giardiasis in Cats

Giardia diagnosis in cats is challenging as: fecal tests yield many false negatives, and a positive result doesn't always indicate clinical disease, especially since most cats carry non-zoonotic strains—and there's no evidence that the feline-specific Giardia ever infects people. Complete parasite clearance is unlikely; the goal is resolution of diarrhea. If the cat is asymptomatic, treatment is not recommended. If treatment is indicated, **fenbendazole (Panacur) at 50 mg/kg PO once daily for five days** is preferred.

If metronidazole is necessary (25 mg/kg PO BID for seven days), it should be paired with a probiotic—such as FortiFlora that is not affected by antibiotics. Combining Panacur with metronidazole offers no proven benefit but can be tried in resistant cases.

If clinical signs persist, repeat testing 24–48 hours after therapy using a centrifuged fecal flotation to look for cysts.

Do not rely on ELISA or PCR as they can stay positive for unknown periods post-treatment. [\[ref\]](#)

True “resistant” Giardia—persistent diarrhea and positive cysts despite proper drug and diet therapy—is rare; such cases warrant a full workup for co-infections (e.g., Cryptosporidium, Tritrichomonas) or other GI diseases (IBD, EPI) using PCR panels, abdominal ultrasound, or biopsies.

Michael Lappin, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, 2025 Fred Scott Feline GUIDELINE for Giardiasis

Ciucca, L, et al. Front Vet Sci (2021):8: 626424

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