

ONTARIO SPCA AND HUMANE SOCIETY

Ontario's animal charity since 1873.

Disease Name:	Coccidia (Isospora spp)
Agent:	Some strain variation in pathogenicity
Clinical signs and significance	<p>Animals - Most often subclinical. Difficult to recreate disease in SPF kittens > 4 weeks of age. May cause diarrhea +/- weight loss, dehydration, mucous or blood. Death occurs rarely.</p> <p>Humans - Watery diarrhea, headache, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, and fever. These symptoms may lead to weight loss and dehydration.</p>
Susceptible domestic species	Isospora species are species-specific. Feline isospora do not infect dogs, and vice versa.
Zoonotic?	Yes
Prevalence	Estimates from < 5% to > 60% depending on population sampled. No significant association with diarrhea reported.
Risk factors	Age (kittens and puppies), co-infections, stress including transportation, change in ownership, weaning
Diagnostic aids:	Fecal floatation
Test comments	Consider signs such as history, signalment, and number of oocysts when assessing significance of oocysts in feces. Clinical signs may precede shedding, leading to false negative floatation results acutely. Coprophagy may lead to presence of oocysts from other species.
Excreted in :	Feces
Mode of transmission:	Fecal-oral, very effectively spread by fomites
Disinfection	Resistant to many disinfectants. High heat cleaning/scalding water.
Incubation	Prepatent period: 3-11 days
Post-recovery shedding	1-9 weeks
Carrier state?	Yes
Specific treatment	Marquis Paste . Sulfadimethoxine, trimethoprim-sulfa.
PPE Required	Gloves, gown, impermeable shoe covers
Control	Change litter box daily (as it takes 8-36 hours to become infectious in feces) and administer prophylactic deworming at intake.