

A: Pet waste contains many harmful pathogens which can cause mild distress to serious diseases.

Hazardous Organisms Found in Dog Waste

Organism	Common Name	Survival / Human Disease
<i>Toxocaracanis</i>	Roundworms	<p>Survival: ■ 4 years in soil.</p> <p>Human Disease: VLM (visceral larva migrans) or toxocariasis, an infection caused by certain parasites, leading to enlargement of the liver (hepatomegaly), inflammation of the middle muscular layer of the heart wall (myocarditis), inflammation of the kidneys (nephritis), inflammation of the lungs (pneumonitis), and blindness. Usually in children, but can occur in adults.</p>
<i>Baylisascaris procyonis</i> (g. <i>Toxocara</i>)	Roundworms	<p>Survival: ■ Eggs can survive in moist soil for years.</p> <p>Human Disease: Severe neurological form of VLM (visceral larva migrans, see above), especially in young children.</p>
<i>Ancylostoma spp.</i>	Hookworms	<p>Survival: ■ Several days. ■ No known effective chemical or pesticide. ■ Prompt removal of dog and cat feces greatly reduces risk of infection.</p> <p>Human Disease: Spreading lesions and severe itching (pruritis). In rare instances can cause symptoms like VLM (see above). Puppies are a significant source of infection.</p>
<i>Cryptosporidium parvum</i>	None	<p>Survival: ■ At least 6 months. ■ Susceptible to drying.</p> <p>Human Disease: Self-limiting inflammation of the lining membrane of the stomach and the intestines (gastroenteritis), protracted in susceptible individuals. CDC reports 300,000 cases annually, 90% of waterborne origin.</p>
<i>Campylobacter spp.</i>	None	<p>Survival: ■ Rapidly killed by heat, drying, and freezing.</p> <p>Human Disease: Mild to severe, bloody diarrhea.</p>
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>E. coli</i> , Fecal coliform bacteria	<p>Survival: ■ Up to 4 months in ruminant (cattle) feces. ■ Extended exposure (i.e., 3 days) at 140°F required to kill organism.</p> <p>Human Disease: Bloody diarrhea, severe cramps, blood clots in the kidney (hemolytic uremic syndrome or HUS), leading to kidney failure.</p>
<i>Giardia duodenalis</i> <i>lamblia</i> (<i>Giardia intestinalis</i>)	<i>Giardia</i> , Giardiasis	<p>Survival: ■ Resistant to drying, chlorination, and temperature extremes. ■ Can survive for months in water. ■ Relatively persistent during wastewater treatment.</p> <p>Human Disease: Diarrhea, cramps, gas (flatulence), nausea, an excess of fat in stools (steatorrhea). Can be protracted and debilitating. CDC estimates 2 million cases in U.S., 90% of waterborne origin.</p>
<i>Salmonella spp.</i>	None	<p>Survival: ■ Up to 6 months in cattle feces. ■ Extended exposure at 140°F required to kill organism.</p> <p>Human Disease: Usually, mild inflammation of the lining membrane of the stomach and the intestines (gastroenteritis) within 6-48 hours.</p>
<i>Brucella spp.</i>	Brucellosis	<p>Survival: ■ 2½ months in moist soil ■ Rapidly killed by direct sunlight exposure.</p> <p>Human Disease: Weakness, extreme exhaustion on slight effort, night sweats, chills, remittent fever, and generalized aches and pains appear in days to months. Can be protracted and extremely debilitating. Uncommon in U.S.</p>
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	None	<p>Survival: ■ Unknown.</p> <p>Human Disease: Mild inflammation of the lining membrane of the stomach and the intestines (gastroenteritis).</p>
<i>Leptospira interrogans</i>	Leptospirosis	<p>Survival: ■ Weeks to months in soil or water.</p> <p>Human Disease: Usually mild fever but complications can be serious, including inflammation of the liver (hepatitis), interference with normal production and discharge of bile (jaundice), inflammation of the membranes that envelop the brain and spinal cord (meningitis), and kidney failure. Life threatening, but uncommon. There has been a recent increase in the numbers of dogs with leptospires.</p>