

All Puppy Bulletin

Subject: Giardia

Although it's great to see the enjoyment our dogs get from swimming and tromping thru the water, it is not without a price. Raccoons, deer, beaver and other wild animals eliminate in all bodies of water. They carry diseases such as Giardia which causes dietary indiscretion and weight loss. The symptoms are typical of several diseases, but if Fido has had contact with dirty (or potentially contaminated) water or with dogs showing similar signs, Giardia should at least be suspected. Not only swimming, but walking along a creek bed and licking their fur afterwards, can pick up this parasite. Any body of water, no matter how clean it looks can carry this danger parasite. Keep this in mind when cooling and exercising your pups.

Because Giardia crosses species and can infect people, sanitation is important when caring for dogs. Kennel workers and pet owners alike should be sure to wash hands after cleaning dog runs or removing feces from yards, and babies and toddlers should be kept away from dogs that have diarrhea. When traveling with Fido, owners should prevent him from drinking potentially infected water in streams, ponds, or swamps and, if possible, avoid public areas polluted with feces.

Consider a kiddie pool or sprinkler as a more viable option.