



VETERINARY VOICE:
Tips of the Trade

INTERNAL MEDICINE - Giardiasis: Part 2: Treatment options	
<p>What is Giardia? What species are affected? What are its forms?</p>	<p><i>Giardia duodenalis</i> (synonyms <i>G. intestinalis</i> and <i>G. lamblia</i>) is a noninvasive flagellated intestinal protozoan parasite that affects many mammalian species, including cats, dogs, and humans. <i>Giardia</i> exists in two forms, the motile trophozoite and the dormant cyst. In the last issue of Veterinary voice, the diagnostics and clinical signs were discussed. This week, treatments are addressed.</p>
<p>Treatments?</p>	<p><u>Treatment of choice</u> Fenbendazole 50 mg/kg q 24 hr for 3-5 days.</p> <p><u>Other treatment choices:</u> Metronidazole 25 mg/kg q 12 hr for 7 days.</p> <p>Albendazole 25 mg/kg q 12 hrs for 3-5 days. May cause bone marrow suppression in dogs and cats and is therefore not recommended.</p> <p>Drontal Plus[®] has been show to decrease Giardia cyst shedding administered at double the label dose</p> <p><u>Other modes of therapy (used in combination with medications)</u></p> <p>Low residue diets may be helpful</p> <p>Supportive care using intravenous or subcutaneous fluids to correct dehydration and maintain normal hydration.</p> <p>Environmental disinfection using chlorine bleach (1% sodium hypochlorite) solutions is routinely recommended. Re-infection is a major factor associated with chronic, recurrent <i>Giardia</i> infections</p> <p><u>Not recommended</u> Probiotics have been shown to have no effect on <i>Giardia</i> cyst shedding or immune stimulation</p> <p>Vaccination – the use of vaccination to prevent or treat giardiasis is not recommended.</p>
<p>Questions?</p> <p>Internal Medicine Experts: Robert Vasilopoulos, DVM, MS, DACVIM Michael Matz, DVM, DACVIM</p>	<p>The Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson has board-certified internists available for questions and consultations on internal medicine conditions during the weekdays. A member of the internal medicine team is on-call 24/7 to provide consultations to VSCT emergency doctors and to perform emergency procedures (endoscopy, ultrasound) for patients seen by the VSCT emergency service. Board-certified internists have four additional years of training and are certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (internal medicine) to assure competency in advanced veterinary internal medicine procedures and cases.</p>