

Coccidia

A parasite is an organism that lives at the expense of another living being. Internal parasites, like intestinal worms and heartworms, live inside the body. Dogs and cats are subject to a variety of internal parasites, but some parasites are species specific.

Description

Coccidia are small protozoan parasites rather than worms. They are seen primarily in young animals, particularly those pets involved in stressful situations such as moving to a new home. The coccidia cause irritation and inflammation of the intestine, which leads to diarrhea. Transmitted mainly by direct contact with other animals, coccidiosis is treated with oral medication.

Treatment

Treatment with oral medication is normally very effective.