



## **NEW FECAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DOGS AT LUCKY PAWS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2017**

February 1, 2017

Dear Lucky Paws Pet Resort Parent,

If you are a regular daycare client you know that we require a stool sample for your dog to come to Lucky Paws. However, after consultation with a group of local veterinarians to make sure we are practicing best measures to make sure YOUR BEST FRIEND is as healthy as can be we will be requiring **all of our clients at daycare, hotel, grooming, and park to screen for parasites including giardia effective June 1, 2017.**

*Giardia* is a microscopic parasite that causes the diarrheal illness known as giardiasis. *Giardia* (also known as *Giardia intestinalis*, *Giardia lamblia*, or *Giardia duodenalis*) is found on surfaces or in soil, food, or water that has been contaminated with feces (poop) from infected humans or animals.

*Giardia* is protected by an outer shell that allows it to survive outside the body for long periods of time and makes it tolerant to chlorine disinfection. While the parasite can be spread in different ways, water (drinking water and recreational water) is the most common mode of transmission.

As you can see from the definition from the Centers for Disease Control, *Giardia* is found in soil and water and can live for a long time. It is also easily spread to humans. Since we are both an indoor and outdoor facility we take sanitation and providing a safe environment for your pet very seriously. We have discussed the pros and cons of asking our customers to make this extra step. We feel it is in the very best interest of your dog and all of the dogs in our care to add this requirement.

Not all vets in our area routinely screen for *Giardia*. Some do, some do not. Here is the list of vets that do this as routine health screenings for your dog:

Vets that automatically check for *Giardia*:

Allegheny North Vet – 412-364-5511

Allegheny South Veterinary – 412-257-0909

Allegheny Veterinary Associates – 412-365-8387

Ambridge Area Veterinary Clinic – 724-266-6100

Bakerstown Vet – 724-443-8200

Beaver Animal Clinic – 724-774-8047

Bradford Hills Veterinary Hospital – 724-935-5827

Bridgeville Animal Hospital – 412-220-9400

Brodhead Animal Hospital – 724-375-7753

Five Points Veterinary Clinic – 724-375-7505

Gardens Veterinary Hospital – 724-772-1870

Good Shepherd Veterinary – 724-776-7387  
Greentree Animal Clinic – 412-276-3311  
Green Valley Veterinary Hospital – 724-452-6151  
Hart's Run Veterinary Hospital – 412-963-8889  
House Calls Veterinary Services – 724-898-7833  
Hufnagel Vet Clinic – 724-452-0910  
Metropolitan Vet Center – West – 412-788-6400  
North Boros Veterinary Hospital – 412-821-5600  
Northview Animal Hospital – 412-364-5353  
Pine Village Vet – 724-940-9100  
Point Breeze Veterinary Clinic – 412-665-1810  
Robinson Animal Hospital- 412-809-0430  
Seven Fields Vet Hospital – 724-742-4433  
Twinbrook Veterinary Hospital – 724-898-2300  
Valley Vet Associates – 724-339-1525  
VCA Met Vet South – 412-344-6888  
VCA Met Vet West – 412-788-6400  
VCA Northview Animal Hospital – 412-364-5353  
Wexford Vet – 724-935-5911  
Windrose Animal Hospital – 724-779-8300

**If your vet is not on the list it is IMPERATIVE you share this letter with your Vet. You must provide a fecal sample and ask your vet to test for giardia (this involves sending to a lab like Antech or Idexx as opposed to doing a fecal test in house.**

To make this easier for you – our valued pet parents – we have changed the 6 month testing requirement to a yearly requirement. If you have any questions, please ask to see me or reach out via phone or email. I – along with the entire Lucky Paws crew – want the absolute best for you and your dog.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your furry best friend.

Gretchen

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