



Dayland Dog Park, Draper, Utah

Draper City was contacted June 20, 2019 by a reporter from Fox 13 news. In the news story they interviewed a dog owner who said their dog had Giardia and their veterinarian told them it was from the Dayland Dog Park. Draper City is concerned about the health of our dog population. In an effort to inform the public, Draper City provides the following information, which will be posted on the city website and on city social media platforms.

What is Giardia? Giardia is an infection in the small intestine. It is caused by a microscopic parasite that can infect the gastrointestinal tract of dogs, cats, humans and other animals. The infection can cause diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss and lethargy. Many infected animals show no signs at all. A dog can carry the parasite and not even know it. The parasite lives in the intestines and is passed in the feces. Young pets, like puppies, have a higher risk of illness than an adult dog.

How does a dog become infected? A dog can contract Giardia by drinking water contaminated with feces of infected dogs, cats, cattle, deer and beavers. They may consume giardia cysts when drinking water from a pond, stream, river, lake or any other untreated surface water. A dog can also contract Giardia by consuming anything that is contaminated with the cyst – feces, contaminated food, agricultural run-off. To avoid infection, limit your dog's access to untreated surface water.

How does a human become infected? People become infected by eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water.

When do symptoms appear? If a dog has been exposed to Giardia, signs and symptoms usually appear one to three weeks after exposure and may include: watery, sometimes foul-smelling diarrhea that may alternate with soft, greasy stools; fatigue or malaise; abdominal cramps and bloating.

How long does Giardia live in water? In cold temperatures (39 degrees F), Giardia can survive for approximately 7 weeks. At room temperature (77 degrees F), Giardia can survive for approximately one week.

Where does the water come from that runs through the Dayland Dog Park? The base flow of the water running through Dayland Dog Park is spring water that comes from ground sources above South Mountain. The spring water is collected in the city's storm drain system, which travels to Corner Creek just after it passes through the dog park. The dog park is also a detention basin. The storm drain system also conveys irrigation runoff, both culinary and secondary, and rain as it drains off property and through the streets. During and shortly after rain events, the majority of the water flowing through the dog park is storm water runoff. On a typical summer day, the majority of the water flowing through the dog park is spring water. When it rains, water from mountain streams, fields, streets and gutters enter into the storm drain and flow through the park. All natural water sources (streams, creeks, springs, etc.) can be considered vulnerable or may be contaminated by Giardia cysts. Since both people and wild and domestic animals are carriers, it is impossible to prevent these organisms from getting into a surface water source.

Does Draper City test the water in Dayland Dog Park? Draper City does not currently run tests on the water in the Dayland Dog Park because it is running water that flows through the park, similar to a river or a stream of running water.

Do I need to be concerned about the water at the new Splash Pad Park? The water at the Splash Pad park is treated, chlorinated water and is completely different than the water in the dog park.

Our recommendation is that if you are worried about your dog contracting Giardia, do not allow your dog to drink untreated surface water, spring water, storm drain water or river or lake water in Corner Canyon or any Draper City public park.