M-02 GIARDIA

**Purpose**

This is to outline the process of avoiding cross contamination, dealing with and treatment when Giardia is known to be present in the facility

**Policy**

Animals that tested positive for giardia will be taken on walks by staff and volunteers and have their stools picked up immediately (to the best of their ability); they will not be placed in runs or allowed in the dog park area.  Giardia positive animals will not be allowed to have contact with giardia negative animals. Staff members will wear protective gloves when handling these animals, their belongings, or cleaning their areas.

Cleaning/Chemical protocols need not be changed to address giardia. Proper hand washing following interactions with giardia positive animals or belongings is very important. Giardia positive signs/magnets will be placed in appropriate locations immediately after a positive test.   These protocols will remain in effect until a negative test is obtained by veterinary staff. Veterinary staff (and/or Animal Care Staff) will be responsible for administering appropriate medications.

**Staff /Areas Affected**

• Animal Care Staff

• All Staff

* All Volunteers

**Definitions**

**Cross Contamination** – the process by which bacteria or other microorganisms are unintentionally transferred from one substance or object to another, with harmful effect.

**Giardia -**zoonotic flagellated protozoan parasite spread through fecal-oral route that can cause diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal cramping and lethargy.

**Responsibilities**

Animal Care is responsible for making sure this process. All staff is responsible for understanding the detrimental impact of cross contamination of any type.

**Procedures**

1. Place “Giardia Positive” signage on enclosures and magnets on location boards immediately upon results of a positive test.
2. Wear gloves at all times when handling the animal, any belongings, and while cleaning the run.
3. Dogs may go on individual walks with staff or volunteer but may not go in runs or dog park area.
4. Stools will be picked up immediately.
5. Animal Care will medicate giardia positive animals in their respective areas.
6. Follow-up testing will occur at the end of treatment.  Results will be communicated by Vet Staff.
7. If follow-up test is negative the animals can resume normal activities immediately.
8. Animals may still be available for adoption during treatment.

There should be a separate poop bucket and scoop reserved for use in Giardia kennels.

Contact time for cleaning and tools using Micro-Chem is 10 minutes

Contact time for cleaning and tools with Rescue is 5 minutes. (No rinsing required)

**Reference Documents**

• Giardia Positive Kennel Sign

• Giardia Adoption Addendum

* Flowcharts, etc.

**Revision History**

V1 - Created 12/3/14

V2 – Updated 6/11/18

V3 – Updated 3/11/20