

## Choose your fecal exams wisely...

Please call the Diagnostic Parasitology Laboratory for additional assistance (865) 974-5645

Test Name	Test Components	Pros	Cons
Fecal Panel (Sugar and Zinc) Routine	• Centrifugal* Sucrose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased sensitivity for <i>Cryptosporidium</i> oocysts</li> <li>Nematode &amp; Cestode eggs, Coccidian oocysts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific gravity of solution (sp.g 1.275) distorts <i>Giardia</i> cysts and fluke eggs</li> </ul>
	• Centrifugal* Zinc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased sensitivity for <i>Giardia</i> cysts</li> <li>Nematode &amp; Cestode &amp; Trematode eggs, lungworm larvae</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor sensitivity for <i>Trichuris</i> eggs and <i>Cryptosporidium</i> oocysts</li> </ul>
Giardia Panel & Sugar Float	• <i>Giardia</i> ELISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Giardia</i> ANTIGEN in symptomatic cats and dogs</li> <li>Increased sensitivity, when performed in conjunction with zinc fecal float</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased false positives in asymptomatic dogs</li> </ul>
	• Direct Saline Smear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Giardia</i> trophozoites only detected in 10% of <i>known</i> positive infections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor sensitivity for most helminth eggs, protozoa and coccidian oocysts</li> <li>Requires fresh unrefrigerated sample</li> </ul>
	• Centrifugal* Zinc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Giardia</i> cysts</li> <li>Specific gravity of solution (sp.g 1.19) increases sensitivity for <i>Giardia</i> cysts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor sensitivity for <i>Trichuris</i> eggs and <i>Cryptosporidium</i> oocysts</li> </ul>
	• Centrifugal* Sucrose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detect parasites other than <i>Giardia</i> as cause of diarrhea</li> <li>Nematode &amp; Cestode eggs, <i>Cryptosporidium</i> &amp; Coccidian oocysts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific gravity of solution (sp.g 1.275) distorts <i>Giardia</i> cysts and fluke eggs</li> </ul>

\*Parasite detection significantly increases with centrifugation

Comprehensive review by Companion Animal Parasite Council [capcvet.org](http://capcvet.org)