

# Raccoon Roundworm

## *Baylisascaris*



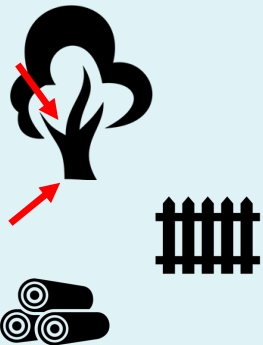
*Baylisascaris* infection occurs when people accidentally swallow dirt, sand, or other material that has been contaminated by raccoon feces containing raccoon roundworm eggs.



Most infections occur in young children or others who are more likely to put contaminated objects or dirt in their mouths.



Infection in humans is rare but can be serious and even fatal. Symptoms begin 1 to 4 weeks after exposure to roundworm eggs and may include nausea, tiredness, and nervous system or visual problems.



Raccoons defecate repeatedly in specific locations called “raccoon latrines.” Many raccoons may use the same latrine. Watch for raccoon feces near gardens, firewood/log piles, large rocks, playgrounds/sandboxes, fence lines, forks of trees, roofs, decks, and unsealed attics. Raccoon feces are dark and tube-shaped.



If you or your family members have come into contact with raccoon feces, contact your healthcare provider, especially if you have symptoms.

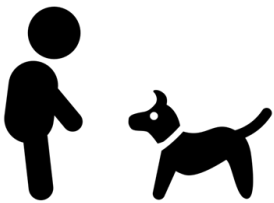
# Tips to Prevent Infection



Do not feed raccoons or keep them as pets.



**Discourage raccoons from living in and around your home.** Don't leave human or pet food out and keep your garbage storage secure. Close off possible entrances to your attic or under your house, and cover sandboxes.



Keep children and pets away from raccoon latrines.



Clean any raccoon latrine found on your property using special precautions to prevent contaminating yourself. See the CDC for instructions:

[www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html)



Wash hands with soap and warm water after working or playing outside. Supervise children under the age of 5 when they wash their hands.



Dogs can be infected with the *Baylisascaris* roundworm. Have all pets de-wormed according to a veterinarian and avoid contact with animal feces.

For more information about prevention, visit:  
[kingcounty.gov/raccoons](http://kingcounty.gov/raccoons)

Photo credit: Mikhail Listopadov, Gan Khoon Lay, Aleksandr Vector, Sahua D, B Farias, Benjamin Sommerlad, Andrew Acree, and Carlos Dias