



Fecal Collection for a Dog and Cat

There are a variety of reasons to check a fecal sample on a dog or a cat, the most common is for parasites. It's best to have a sample checked yearly even if your pet is not showing any symptoms. A small measure of parasites in your pet can go undetected since they may not exhibit symptoms; however, these parasites can still compromise your pet's health over a period of time, so it's best to check at least yearly.

If you're submitting a sample of stool(feces) for your pet for analysis, the following are steps to take:

For your Dog:



1. Submit a fresh sample, preferably within several hours of collection.
 - ❖ It's very difficult to use a sample that is, well, rock hard. A softer, fresher sample allows for better mixing with the solution used in the test.
 - ❖ Samples that have been sitting in the yard may already be contaminated with parasites from the environment – you'd be amazed at how fast worms can move!
2. Bring only a small sample. A finger's worth is sufficient. Although Southpaw clients are of the generous sort, we really appreciate stinginess in this area unless instructed otherwise.
3. Bring a clean sample. Although "clean fecal sample" may seem like a contradiction, samples that have grass and dirt all over them may contain suspicious particles, and knowing the sample has not been contaminated helps us to determine whether it came from the grass or Fifi.
4. Place your name, your dog's name, the date and time collected on the container or a piece of paper for submission. Samples may be in a plastic baggie or other appropriate container.

For your Cat:

1. Cat's can sometimes be more difficult for owners to collect a fresh fecal sample from for the same reason it's difficult to get urine – cat's don't go on demand the ways dogs can when we take them for walks. However, the rules above apply to our feline friends as well.
 - ❖ Freshness is important and minimal contamination. If it's covered in litter, never fear, our experts can still use it!

