



What Is *Campylobacter*?

- ✖ *Campylobacter* is a type of bacteria that lives in the intestines of people, dogs, cats and many other animals, even little pets like rabbits, hamsters, ferrets and birds.
- ✖ *Campylobacter* can give people and animals diarrhea. Sometimes babies, very young kids and people who are already sick from something else can get very sick from *Campylobacter*. If this happens they may have to go to the hospital.
- ✖ The name *Campylobacter* means “twisted bacteria” because these bacteria are spiral-shaped.
- ✖ Sometimes an animal or a person may have *Campylobacter* without knowing it, and without getting sick at all.



Where Does *Campylobacter* Come From?

- ✔ *Campylobacter* comes from poop of animals (especially chickens) who already have *Campylobacter* in their intestine.
- ✔ *Campylobacter* can live for a few days in poop or on food that hasn't been cooked well, and sometimes in water where animals have pooped.

How Do People & Pets Get *Campylobacter*?

- ✖ People usually get *Campylobacter* because a tiny amount of poop gets on their food or in their drink, or they touch something that has a very tiny amount of poop on it, and then they touch their nose, their mouth or their food and swallow the *Campylobacter*.
- ✖ Pets can get *Campylobacter* from eating or licking something that has poop on it, or from eating meat like chicken that has not been cooked well.

How Do I Know If My Pet Has *Campylobacter*?

- ✔ Most pets don't get sick from *Campylobacter*. If they do, they get diarrhea, just like people.
- ✔ If your pet has diarrhea (really soft, runny poop), your pet might need to go to the vet.
- ✔ Your vet can test your pet's poop to see if there is *Campylobacter* in it.
- ✔ Your vet will also check your pet to make sure there isn't anything else making him or her sick. Your pet might need some medicine if he or she has *Campylobacter*.



Can I Get *Campylobacter* From My Pet?

Maybe. *Campylobacter* bacteria can sometimes be in poop from pets, and from people, even if they don't look sick. But if some gets in your mouth, the *Campylobacter* might be able to make you sick. To make sure you don't get sick, this is what you should do:

- ✔ Always wash your hands well after you play with your pet.
- ✖ Don't touch anyone's face (including yours!) or touch any food until you've washed your hands.
- ✖ Don't touch your pet's bum, even if it looks clean.
- ✖ Don't let your pet lick your face.
- ✖ Don't let your dog eat poop off the ground or drink from the toilet.

