



## What Is “Crypto”?

- 🐾 *Cryptosporidium*, or “*Crypto*” for short, is a parasite that lives in the intestine of people and pets.
- 🐾 It’s so small you need a microscope to see it!
- 🐾 *Crypto* is very common in baby cows, which are called calves.
- 🐾 Dogs, cats and other animals can have *Crypto* in their intestine too.
- 🐾 *Crypto* sometimes makes people sick - it gives them diarrhea ☹️.
- 🐾 Pets can get sick from *Crypto* too, but not very often.



## Where Does *Crypto* Come From?

- 👉 *Crypto* comes from the poop from people or pets who already have *Crypto* in their intestine.
- 👉 If the *Crypto* from the poop gets into water, it can live there for a long time. *Crypto* can also live for months on the ground, and on almost anything inside or outside your house.

## How Do People Get *Crypto*?

- 🐾 People can get *Crypto* from drinking or swimming in “dirty” water that has poop in it. The water might not look or taste dirty, because it takes only a very tiny amount of poop from a person or an animal in the water to infect another person.
- 🐾 People can also get *Crypto* when a tiny bit of poop gets on their hands or on their food, and then it gets in their mouth, especially if the poop is from a person (like a baby) or a baby cow.

## How Do I Know If My Pet Has *Crypto*?



- 👉 Most pets don’t get sick from *Crypto*. If they do get sick they get diarrhea, just like people.
- 👉 If your pet has diarrhea, or if your pet’s poop is too soft or smells really bad, tell an adult. Your pet might need to go to the vet.
- 👉 Your vet can actually look in your pet’s poop with a microscope to see if there is *Crypto* in it!
- 👉 Your vet will also check your pet to make sure there isn’t anything else making him or her sick. If your pet just has *Crypto*, he or she will probably get better after a few days.

## Can I Get *Crypto* From My Pet?

**Maybe.** *Crypto* can sometimes be in the poop from pets (and from people), even if they don’t look sick. But if some gets in your mouth, the *Crypto* 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 puddles, ponds or lakes.
- ✗ If you go to a farm or petting zoo, ask your parents before you touch any baby cows.

