

PATIENT: Niko

Canine; Labrador Retriever

20-Aug-2026

VETERINARIAN:

GUT STATUS

At-Risk

DYSBIOSIS

Normal (1)

TOP DRIVERS

- Gut Fuel

CLINICAL PICTURE

Transit Time



Fast Transit
(diarrhea/urgency)

Abn Pain/ Gas



Normal

Disease Severity



Normal

Impact



Normal

What We Have Detected

Niko's microbiome shows no dysbiosis with low gut fuel (SCFA), along with mild GI symptoms. This pattern can reduce gut stability and contribute to irritation, which helps explain the GI symptoms. Fermentation context: low SCFA, FQI out of range. Community notes: total bacterial load atypical.

Products:

- Probiotics: restore balance; support stool consistency

Diet:

- Protein ↑: support repair if underconditioned
- Sol fiber ↑: feeds beneficial bacteria; supports SCFAs

KEY FINDINGS

BACTERIAL DIVERSITY

NORMAL



Niko's bacterial diversity is in a healthy range.

GUT FUEL (SCFA)

LOW



Niko's gut fuel (SCFAs) is low. Drivers: SCFA (low).

CORE IMBALANCE

NONE



Niko's core bacteria show no imbalance detected.

OVERGROWTH RISK

NONE



Niko's overgrowth risk is not detected.

ACTION PLAN (or as directed by DVM)

DIET CHANGES

↑	PROTEIN	Increase
→	FAT	Maintain
↑	SOLUBLE FIBER	Increase
→	INSOLUBLE FIBER	Maintain
→	MEAL FREQUENCY	Maintain

PRODUCTS (dosing)

Probenz-VM	Gut Restore	Antibiotics
Indicated	DVM Directed	Not Indicated
1.5-2 scoops daily	1 Capsule Daily Large Size	

OPTIONAL TESTING

Additional Testing is Case Specific

Evaluation beyond the microbiome is optional. Niko has vague signs with a normal microbiome; if signs continue, consider endocrine, systemic, pain, stress-related, or structural causes.

TIMELINE

Microbiome retest within 2-4 months or if clinical signs worsen

GI Microbiome Panel

Flora Imbalances & Metrics



VDI Lab Services
9420 Topanga Cyn Blvd, Chatsworth, CA 91311
ph: 805-577-6742 fax: 805-426-8115

PATIENT NAME: Niko
SPECIMEN ID: 195420
SPECIES / SEX: Canine / M
AGE/WT: 0.6 / 38 lb
BREED: Labrador Retriever

MRN: 1232215
DRAW DATE: 24-Feb-26
RECEIVED DATE: 2-Mar-26
REPORT DATE: 20-Aug-26
SAMPLE TYPE: Stool

VETERINARIAN:
FACILITY:
PH:

Microbiome Metrics

Total Cell Count	Elevated 3.5 x 10 ¹⁰ /g	Normal: 0.1 - 3.0
Bacteria	Normal 99.9%	Normal: >98%
Fungi/Yeast	Normal <0.1%	Normal: <2%

Bacterial Diversity Scores

Richness v2:	10.0	normal: >5.3
Evenness v2:	7.9	normal: >6.7
Fermenters:	70%	normal: 80-95%

Dysbiosis Severity Index

Normal (1.0)	normal: <2.4 ver 2.0
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Relevant Context (from TRF)

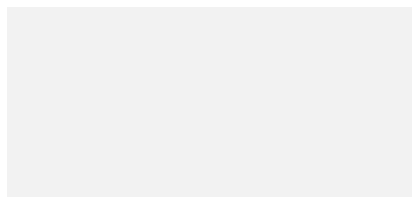
Environment INDOOR	Clinical Signs DIARRHEA
LIVES WITH DOGS	Diet Type RAW
Disease status	Relevant Meds

Flora Imbalances

Core Commensals

Core commensals show no specific taxa depletion, normal richness and low SCFA (reduced fermentation).

Core Imbalances Detected



SCFA Low SCFA Producers

49% normal: 52-90%

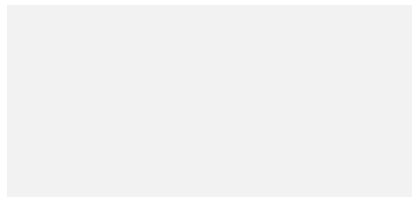
SCFA-F Ratio

0.70 normal: >0.5

Opportunistic Bloomers

Opportunists are within the expected range.

Opportunistic Overgrowth



Proteolytic Fermentation
Normal

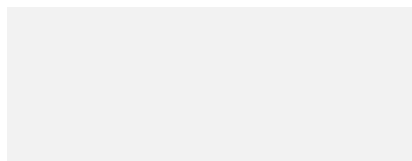
Niko has a low FQI, indicating a mild-to-moderate proteolytic bias relative to saccharolytic fermentation. Gas, diarrhea, and/or soft stool are reported, so this pattern may be clinically relevant.

Fermenter Quality Index
Low

Pathogens

Pathogens are within the expected range.

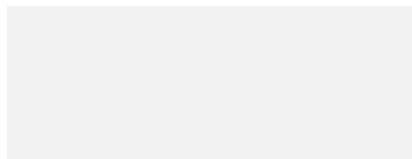
Pathogens Detected



Fungi/Yeast

Fungi/yeast are within the expected range.

Fungi/Yeast Overgrowth



Interpretive Comment

Niko has mild GI signs. The microbiome shows no significant pathogen or opportunist overgrowth, with a normal dysbiosis severity index. Core commensals are balanced. Fermentation findings: SCFA-production potential is low, indicating reduced saccharolytic output. Proteolytic activity is within the expected range. FQI is low, indicating a mild-to-moderate proteolytic bias relative to saccharolytic fermentation. Community structure shows normal richness and normal evenness. Total bacterial count is high.

Special Notations

Need help? email VDI at consult@vdiilab.com

AC-AI version: A04.001.01

Lab Director: Randy Ringold, MT(ASCP), MBA

Powered by VDI's Adaptive Clinical AI

GI Microbiome Panel Flora Details



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Key Indices		Fungi/ Yeast	<0.1%	<2%	DSI _{v2} = 1.0	Legend
Total Bacterial Ct	3.5 x 10 ¹⁰ /g	Fermenters	70%	80-95%		
Richness v2	10.0 >5.3	SCFA	49%	52-90%	Normal	SCFA small chain FA producers
Evenness v2	7.9 >6.7	SCFA-F Ratio	0.70	>0.5		<50% overgrowth
						>50% overgrowth

20-0.58

Bacteria Represents 99.9% of the Microbiome

Clinically Relevant Bacteria	%	Max	Significance	Comment

Fungi/Yeast Represents <0.1% of the Microbiome

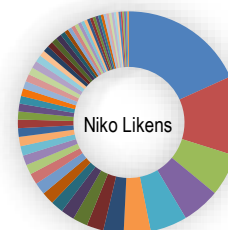
Clinically Relevant Fungi	%	Max	Significance	Comment

Top 20 Bacteria

	%
Fusobacterium sp.	17.3%
Bacteroides sp.	11.0%
Faecalibacterium sp.	5.8%
Phocaeicola vulgatus	5.2%
Blautia sp.	5.1%
Phocaeicola sp.	3.7%
Peptacetobacter hiranonis	2.8%
Bacteroides stercoris	2.3%
Faecalimonas umbilicata	2.1%
Collinsella intestinalis	1.9%
(f)Lachnospiraceae sp.	1.7%
(f)Prevotellaceae sp.	1.7%
(f)Oscillospiraceae sp.	1.7%
Eisenbergiella sp.	1.5%
Phocaeicola coprocola	1.4%
Faecousia sp.	1.4%
Ventrimonas sp.	1.3%
Candidatus Copromonas Copromona	1.3%
Alloprevotella sp.	1.2%
Blautia caecimuris	1.2%

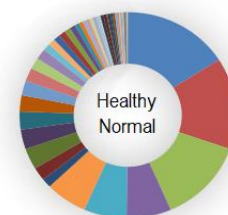
Top 20 Fungi

	%
Agaricus bisporus	48.0%
Pestalotiopsis microspor	20.0%
(f)Mycosphaerellaceae s	12.0%
Alfaria acaciae-tabebuia	8.0%
(f)Sporormiaceae sp.	4.0%
(f)Cucurbitariaceae sp.	4.0%
(o)Sareales sp.	12:57 AM



Bacteria

- Fusobacterium sp.
- Bacteroides sp.
- Faecalibacterium sp.



Healthy gut flora is generally characterized by rich and even diversity. Individual "normal" may look different patient to patient.

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VETERINARIAN:

Relevant goals and recommended actions are based on the patient's reported history and diagnostic test results. Ensure "Relevant Context" summary accurately reflects this individual case. **Primary Goals:** These outline the desired outcomes following treatment or intervention. **Microbiome-Clinical Correlation** provides insight if other issues may be present

Primary Goals

	Normal flora
X	Diversity improvement
	Opportunistic reduction
	Pathogen elim/ reduce
X	Clinical sign improvement
	Low count increase

**Microbiome
Clinical
Correlation**

Borderline

Interpretive Comment

Evaluation beyond the microbiome is optional. Niko has vague signs with a normal microbiome; if signs continue, consider endocrine, systemic, pain, stress-related, or structural causes.

Clinical Signs:

Diarrhea

Products recommended are based on test results and clinical signs. Consult a veterinarian to ensure safety and efficacy. Introduce products and dietary changes **GRADUALLY** and **SEQUENTIALLY** to prevent GI upset. Dosing is tailored to your pet per manufacturer guidelines.

Probiotics

Indicated

Interpretive Comment

Niko shows abnormal SCFA output with an otherwise salvageable microbiome. A probiotic is indicated to support more efficient fermentation and improve mucosal health.

Use Guidelines

Probiotics can help stabilize stool quality, reduce gas and bloating, and support healthier fermentation. Use a multi-strain veterinary formula. Temporary soft stool may occur in the first few days. Improvements often begin within 1–3 weeks, with full benefit by 4–6 weeks. Continue alongside diet adjustments and reassess regularly.

Recommended Product

Probenz-VM

[Learn More](#)

Nine strains of Lactobacillus & Bifidobacterium with Saccharomyces boulardii (useful when using antibiotics) to help support diversity & the production of short-chain fatty acids. Its unique encapsulation technology protects probiotic viability through the GI tract, while added enzymes and demulcent herbs enhance nutrient absorption, soothe mucosa, and support immune balance.

1.5-2 scoops daily

FMT

Optional

Interpretive Comment

FMT is optional. Consider Niko's overall symptoms, dysbiosis pattern, and response to dietary and microbiome-directed therapy when determining if it is appropriate.

Use Guidelines

FMT may assist with rebalancing when other therapies have been partially effective. It can broaden microbial diversity and promote better stool formation. Expect mild transitional stool changes. Evaluate clinical response within 1–2 weeks and combine with recommended diet adjustments.

Recommended Product

Healthy Gut Restore

[Learn More](#)

Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) provides healthy donor microbiota to help restore the GI flora - a kind of super probiotic. Healthy Gut Restore is sourced from select donor dogs raised on a sustainable, eco-friendly property, and routinely tested. Their diet is meticulously balanced promoting a nutrient-rich foundation that supports optimal health and microbiome diversity.

**1 Capsule Daily
Large Size**

Antibiotics

Not Indicated

Interpretive Comment

Antibiotics are not indicated based on the microbiome findings because Niko has no moderate or high pathogen overgrowth. Persistent or severe signs should prompt evaluation for other causes.

Use Guidelines

Antibiotics are not expected to improve current GI signs and may disrupt microbiome recovery. Focus on diet, hydration, probiotics or FMT as directed, and appropriate medical therapy. Monitor for progression or new symptoms, and reconsider antibiotic use only if the clinical picture changes.

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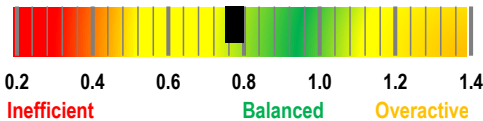
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VETERINARIAN:

Fermenter Quality Index (FQI)
Low (0.7)

Niko has a low FQI, indicating a mild-to-moderate proteolytic bias relative to saccharolytic fermentation. Gas, diarrhea, and/or soft stool are reported, so this pattern may be clinically relevant.



Proteolytic	Modest proteolytic fermentation reflecting a balance of protein and carbohydrate fermentation.
Normal	
SCFA	Reduced fermenter abundance and SCFA output. Suggests insufficient soluble fiber or recent antibiotic use impacting microbial activity.
Low	
DSI	No meaningful dysbiosis identified.
Normal	

Clinical Signs:

Diarrhea

Current Diet: RAW

Protein	Interpretive Comment Niko has reduced SCFA output. Increasing protein along with appropriate fiber may help improve overall fermentation efficiency and energy availability.	Dietary Guidelines Keep the recipe simple and lean during the increase; avoid high-fat cuts and heavy organ loads. If GI signs flare, consider shifting to a more digestible cooked or hydrolyzed approach.	Examples Lean-only raw (avoid skin/fat trimmings) Reduce heavy organ load Consider cooked/hydrolyzed if flares
Increase			
Fat Content	Interpretive Comment No major change in fat is needed at this time. Maintaining the current fat level while adjusting other nutrients is appropriate for Niko.	Dietary Guidelines Maintain current fat level while adjusting other levers. Keep meals consistent and avoid rich, fatty treats/extras that can worsen diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting.	Examples Keep meals consistent Avoid rich treats Do not add oils/fatty toppers.
Maintain			
Soluble Fiber	Interpretive Comment Niko has reduced SCFA production. Increasing soluble fiber can provide more fermentable substrate to support SCFA generation and mucosal health.	Dietary Guidelines Add soluble fiber carefully; avoid multiple simultaneous ingredient changes. If GI signs worsen, reduce fiber and consider a more digestible cooked/hydrolyzed approach temporarily.	Examples Use: psyllium (low dose) PHGG. Avoid: multiple new ingredients at once.
Increase			
Insoluble Fiber	Interpretive Comment No major change in insoluble fiber is needed. Maintaining the current level while adjusting other diet components is appropriate for Niko.	Dietary Guidelines Maintain current insoluble fiber level while adjusting other levers. Keep hydration adequate and avoid sudden fiber swings that can increase gas, straining, or loose stool.	Examples Keep fiber stable Maintain hydration Avoid abrupt fiber changes.
Maintain			
Meal Frequency	Intrepretive Comment No major change in meal frequency is needed at this time. Maintain a consistent schedule while adjusting other diet levers for Niko.	Direction Maintain the current meal schedule while adjusting other levers. Keep meal timing consistent and avoid large single meals if nausea, reflux, or vomiting is a concern.	Frequency Keep a consistent schedule Avoid very large meals Split meals if symptoms flare.
Maintain			

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VETERINARIAN:

Below is a quick-reference list of commonly available, grocery-store soluble and insoluble fiber sources that can be used to support dietary objectives. Fiber matters because it feeds the gut microbiome. Many fibers—especially soluble fibers—are fermented by intestinal bacteria into short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) (primarily acetate, propionate, and butyrate). SCFAs help support colon cell health, stool quality, and a more stable microbial ecosystem.



Soluble fiber foods

(more fermentable / “gel-forming”)

Food

Psyllium husk
Pumpkin (plain canned)
Oat bran / oats
Barley
Cooked sweet potato
Cooked carrots
Apple
Chia seed
Ground flaxseed
Inulin / chicory root fiber
Pectin
Acacia fiber (gum arabic)

Notation

Plain only; avoid xylitol/sweeteners in human products
Not pie filling
—
—
—
—
Peeled; no seeds/core
Soaked/gel
Ground is better than whole
Can cause gas/bloating in some pets
Often from apples/citrus; can be very fermentable
Usually gentle; may still cause gas at higher amounts

Cats can be pickier and more sensitive to rapid fiber changes.

For many cats, pumpkin or psyllium in tiny doses are the most practical starting points.

Insoluble fiber foods

(more bulking / less fermentable)

Food

Wheat bran
Cellulose powder
Green beans
Zucchini
Leafy greens (cooked)
Broccoli stems
Cauliflower
Cabbage
Brown rice
Quinoa
Coconut fiber

Notation

Potent; can be drying/constipating if overdone
Very consistent; low fermentability
Plain; canned no-salt is fine
—
Spinach/kale—small amounts
Small amounts; can cause gas
Small amounts; can cause gas
Small amounts; can cause gas
Mixed fiber but more insoluble than white rice
Mixed fiber; moderate
Highly insoluble; may be constipating in some

Buy Organic! Choosing organic fiber sources helps reduce pesticide and herbicide exposure, supporting microbial diversity, preserving beneficial fermentation pathways, and minimizing potential environmental toxin impacts on gut barrier integrity and immune balance.



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VETERINARIAN:
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Key Indices		Fungi/ Yeast	
Total Bacterial Ct	3.5 x 10 ¹⁰ /g	Fermenters	<0.1% <2%
Richness v2	10.0 >5.3	SCFA	70% 80-95%
Evenness v2	7.9 >6.7	SCFA-F Ratio	49% 52-90%
			0.70 >0.5

Relevant Context (from TRF)

Environment **Clinical Signs**
INDOOR DIARRHEA

LIVES WITH DOGS

Diet Type
RAW

Disease status **Relevant Meds**

Microbiome Clinical Correlation

Borderline

Interpretive Comment

Evaluation beyond the microbiome is optional. Niko has vague signs with a normal microbiome; if signs continue, consider endocrine, systemic, pain, stress-related, or structural causes.

**Dysbiosis
Severity Idx v2**

Normal (1.0)

Additional Recommended Testing

MYCOTOXIN PANEL Test Code: 792	Not Indicated	GLYPHOSATE PANEL Test Code: 792	Not Indicated
Mycotoxin testing is not indicated at this time, as current microbiome findings and clinical presentation do not suggest environmental fungal toxin exposure as a primary driver of dysbiosis or gastrointestinal signs.		Glyphosate testing is not indicated at this time, as current microbiome findings and clinical presentation do not suggest environmental herbicide exposure as a primary driver of dysbiosis or gastrointestinal signs.	

FUR MINERAL ANALYSIS Test Code: 701	Not Indicated	ADVANCED GI PANEL Test Code 260	Optional
Hair Mineral Analysis is not indicated at this time, as current microbiome findings and clinical presentation do not suggest mineral imbalance or heavy metal exposure as a primary contributor to dysbiosis or gastrointestinal signs.		Advanced GI Panel testing may be considered when GI signs persist or recur despite microbiome support. Screening for IBD, LSA, pancreatic, or protein-losing conditions can help clarify underlying drivers if response to therapy is incomplete.	

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Code	Test	Sample Type	Notes
792	Mycotoxin Panel	2-3mL Urine	Testing for 16 mycotoxins for 5 different groups of toxins
793	Glyphosate Panel	1-2mL Urine	Can be tested along with Mycotoxin Panel on same sample.
701	Fur Mineral Analysis	1 TBSP (200mg) Fur	30 Minerals & metals & 7 mineral ratios
260	Advanced GI Panel	1.0mL Serum, fasted	12 Parameters for differential diagnosis of GI disease.

Terminology

Total Bacterial Count

Total bacterial count reflects the overall quantity of bacteria present in the GI tract, measured from a fecal sample. Important because both unusually low counts (microbial depletion) and high counts (bacterial overgrowth) can signal disruption of normal gut balance and provide context for interpreting relative abundance data.

Bacterial Fungal Ratio

Bacterial to Fungi Ratio expresses the balance between bacterial and fungal populations in the gut microbiome. A higher ratio indicates bacterial dominance typical of healthy GI ecosystems, while a lower ratio suggests fungal overgrowth, often associated with antibiotic use, immune suppression, or dysbiosis.

Richness

Richness index is a measure of the number of different bacterial species present within the gastrointestinal microbiome. Higher richness generally reflects greater microbial diversity and stability, while reduced richness is often associated with dysbiosis, loss of resilience, and increased disease susceptibility.

Evenness

Evenness index measures how uniformly individual species are represented within the microbiome community. A high evenness indicates a balanced distribution of species, while low evenness suggests dominance by a few taxa, a pattern often linked to dysbiosis and reduced ecosystem stability.

Fermenters

Total fermenters represents the proportion of gut bacteria capable of fermenting dietary substrates, such as fibers and proteins, into metabolites. Important because fermenters drive production of SCFAs and gases, influencing nutrient absorption, gut barrier health, and the risk of dysbiosis-related symptoms like bloating or diarrhea.

SCFA (Small Chain Fatty Acid)

SCFA percentage reflects the proportion of gut bacteria that produce short-chain fatty acids such as acetate, propionate, and butyrate. Important because SCFA producers support intestinal barrier integrity, immune regulation, and anti-inflammatory balance, while a low percentage may indicate dysbiosis or reduced gut resilience.

SCFA-F Ratio

SCFA to total fermenters ratio compares SCFA-producing bacteria to the overall fermenting population. A high ratio suggests efficient, beneficial fermentation with production of health-promoting metabolites, while a low ratio indicates that fermentation is skewed toward gas and potentially harmful byproducts, increasing the risk of dysbiosis and GI signs.

Proteolytic Bacteria

The proteolytic metric reflects bacteria that degrade proteins through proteolytic fermentation. This contrasts with carbohydrate (saccharolytic) fermentation, producing beneficial SCFA. Elevated proteolytic activity often indicates excess protein reaching the colon, reduced fiber availability, or dysbiosis—conditions promoting gas, inflammation, and impaired mucosal integrity.

Core Commensals

What is it: Foundational, health-promoting species that maintain gut stability, produce SCFAs, regulate immunity, & support barrier integrity.

When abnormal: Species imbalance indicates loss of resilience, reduced SCFA production, and predisposition to dysbiosis, inflammation or chronic GI disease.

Opportunistic Bloomers

What is it: Bacteria normally present at low levels but capable of rapid expansion with diet shifts, antibiotics, stress, or impaired microbiome control.

When abnormal: Overgrowth suggests microbial imbalance; may contribute to gas, bloating, diarrhea, or signal underlying dysbiosis.

Pathogens

What is it: Organisms with clear disease-causing potential (e.g., Clostridioides difficile, Salmonella, Campylobacter).

When abnormal: Detection or overgrowth may indicate infection risk; clinical correlation (signs, toxin genes, culture, biomarkers) is essential before treatment.

Fungi

What is it: Non-bacterial members of the microbiome, including Candida, Cyniclomycetes, and environmental molds.

When abnormal: Overgrowth can reflect antibiotic use, immune suppression, or dietary/environmental influence; may exacerbate dysbiosis and contribute to GI or systemic signs.

Dysbiosis Severity Index (DSI)

Dysbiosis Severity Index (DSI) is an integrated measure that combines microbiome metrics, tiered shifts in bacterial and fungal populations, to classify the degree of imbalance in the gastrointestinal ecosystem. It stratifies patients into Normal, Mild, Moderate, or High dysbiosis on a scale of 0-10, helping veterinarians interpret sequencing results in context and guide treatment decisions.

Fermenter Quality Index (FQI)

FQI measures microbial fermentation balance — linking directly to dietary carbohydrate utilization. It helps guide nutrition strategies by revealing whether gut microbes efficiently convert dietary fiber into beneficial SCFA that support energy, stool quality, mucosal integrity, and overall digestive health, while also signaling when fermentation shifts toward less favorable pathways.

GI Microbiome Panel

Parasite Details



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Key Indices		Fungi/ Yeast		DSI _{v2} = 1.0	Clinical Signs
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Richness v2	10.0 >5.3	SCFA	<1%	Normal	DIARRHEA
Evenness v2	7.9 >6.7	SCFA-F Ratio	<0.01 >0.5		

Diet: **RAW**

Parasites

Parasites	Findings	Summary	Intrepretive Comment
<u>Giardia duodenalis</u>	Detected Relevant	Giardia duodenalis is a flagellated protozoan that colonizes the small intestine. Trophozoite attachment can damage the brush border, reduce digestive-enzyme activity and impair nutrient absorption. Can produces intermittent or persistent soft, pale, malodorous or mucus-containing stool, sometimes with flatulence, poor weight gain or weight loss.	In a dog with diarrhea, sequencing detection of Giardia duodenalis should be considered clinically relevant and a plausible cause or contributor
<u>Sarcocystis hjorti-rangi</u>	Detected Diet Associated	Sarcocystis hjorti/rangi is a protozoan parasite that uses deer, moose or reindeer as intermediate hosts and canids as definitive hosts. Dogs may acquire it by eating raw cervid meat, offal or prey and subsequently shed sporocysts in feces. Infection is usually asymptomatic; diarrhea is possible but uncommon.	Fecal sequencing detection often indicates dietary exposure rather than the cause of GI signs.No routine treatment is established; prevention centers on avoiding raw meat and scavenging.

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