

## Raccoon Roundworm Infection PSA (:60)

Raccoons often carry *Baylisascaris*, a parasite that can infect people. The parasite's eggs are passed in raccoon feces. When someone accidentally swallows or inhales the eggs, a severe disease can develop.

Symptoms of infection include nausea, fatigue, and loss of coordination. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid contact with raccoons and their feces. Discourage raccoons from living around your home. Don't leave human or pet food outside and keep trash in tightly closed containers. Close off access to attics and basements. Keep sandboxes covered when not in use and remove fish ponds and other water sources from the yard. Don't feed or adopt raccoons or other wild animals as pets.

Anyone who has accidentally touched raccoon feces should see a health care provider immediately, as treatment is most effective within the first three days of exposure.

To learn more, visit [www.cdc.gov/parasites](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites).