



Raccoon Roundworm

JUNE 2015

BAYLISASCARIS

Cause

Baylisascaris procyonis (intestinal roundworm)

Risk of
Exposure in
Illinois

Moderate

Risk of
Transmission
to Exposed
People

Rare

Mode of
Transmission

Ingestion of infective eggs in soil, water or objects contaminated with raccoon feces

Incubation
Period

Human: Uncertain, but neural larval migrans may occur within 2-4 weeks
Animal: At least one week

Clinical Signs-
Human

Clinical signs depend on the number of eggs ingested and where in the body the larvae migrate. Nausea, fatigue, fever, enlarged liver, loss of coordination, loss of muscle control, coma and blindness.

Clinical Signs-
Animal

Baylisascaris larval migrans has not been reported in livestock. Raccoons are usually asymptomatic.

Control and
Prevention

Good personal hygiene; test/treat human cases; avoid contact with raccoons and their feces

Comments

None

Additional
Information

<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/baylisascariasis.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/index.html>