

### What?

- **Toxocariasis (also called Toxocara) is a rare infection caused by roundworm parasites which live in the faeces of dogs, cats and foxes.**
- **Humans can catch it from handling soil or sand contaminated with infected animal faeces. Humans become infected if contaminated soil comes in contact with their mouths.**
- **Cases have been reported in people of all ages but are especially prevalent in young children.**



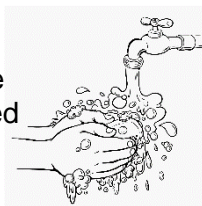
### Why?



- For most people, an infection with these roundworm larvae causes no symptoms and the parasite die within months.
- However, some people experience mild symptoms such as a cough, high temperature above 38C, headaches or stomach pains.
- In rare cases the roundworm larvae affects the organs such as liver, lungs, eyes or brain and can cause symptoms such as: loss of appetite, skin rashes, difficulty breathing, seizures, painful red eye or blurred and cloudy vision, usually effecting just one eye. There's a risk of permanent vision loss, but prompt treatment can reduce the chances of this happening.

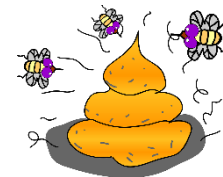
### Do ✓

- ✓ Practice good hygiene to avoid contamination
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and warm water thoroughly for 20 seconds after handling pets or coming in to contact with soil and sand
- ✓ Wear gloves at all times when handling soil and sand
- ✓ Wash hands even when gloves have been worn
- ✓ See your GP as soon as possible if you think you have symptoms that may be caused by toxocariasis



### Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't eat food, smoke or touch your mouth before washing hands
- ✗ Don't eat food grown in soil without washing it well
- ✗ Don't work near cat and dog faeces – tell your group leader
- ✗ Don't pick up faeces when litter picking.



<b>Document Name</b>	<i>TBT Toxocariasis</i>	<b>Document No.</b>	<i>OC/HS/TBT 63</i>
<b>Document Owner</b>	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	<b>Date of Issue</b>	<i>02.07.20</i>
<b>Related TBTs</b>	<i>Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease); Ticks &amp; Lyme Disease</i>	<b>Version No.</b>	<i>1</i>