Reptilian Parasite Identification

The most common parasite found in bearded dragons is coccidia. Bearded dragons have their own species of coccidia known as Isospora amphiboluri, it lives in the small intestine replicating in the mucosal lining to produce oocysts. The most common symptoms associated with coccidia are weight loss, diarrhea and anorexia in stressed adults. Extreme cases can result in blood or mucous in feces.

**Coccidia - isospora amphiboluri ovum** - left and below left - characterized by tiny circular shaped, thin walled ova with two sporocysts each containing four sporozites. Clear in color and very tiny. Common in low counts. Treat with Sulfadimethoxine or Toltrazuril

**Coccidia - Eimeria pogonae ovum** - above right - Characterized by tiny oval shaped, thin walled ova with four sporocysts each containing two sporozites. Clear in color and very small. Treat with Sulfadimethoxine or Toltrazuril

**Pinworms - Oxyurid ovum** - Characterized by elongated oval shape, usually with single flattened side coming to a slight point at the ends. Usually browish in color and much larger than coccidia. Centers may show unembryonated spores or embryonated worms. The pinworm is a nematode parasite that is so common it is considered more of a pest. Treat with Fenbendazole

**Roundworm - Ascarids** - Characterized by larger, circular shaped, thick walled ova. Clear to brownish in color. Nematode. Treat with Fenbendazole

**Hookworm - Strongylid ova** - Characterized by circular, oval or football shaped ova, thin walled and transparent in color. Centers are darker and full of unembryonated spores. Treat with Fenbendazole

**Whipworm - Trichuris** - Characterized by football shaped with distinct poles, thick walled ova clear to brownish in color. Treat with Fenbendazole

**Giardia** - protozoan flagellate -1000x - Very tiny and hard to detect by the novice. Treat with Metronidazole. Yeast cells often mistaken for Giardia cysts