Blastocystis Lifecycle

Infection in humans and animals is initiated when the faecal cyst is ingested. The cyst can be ingested through either contaminated water or food, or via direct transmission through human faeces.

Excystation occurs while in the large intestine where the cyst develops into amoeboid, vacuolar and granular forms.

Encystation occurs before being deposited in the faeces.

Possible animal hosts of Blastocystis include chickens, rats and pigs amongst others.