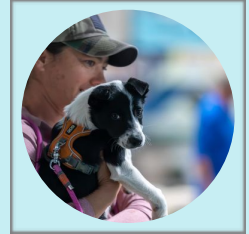


# April is Heartworm Awareness Month

Help us to help you—Heartworm Prevention is critical for dogs and cats alike!



### Start young!

HWP should begin with puppy and kitten boosters at <6 mo of age.



### Added benefits!

Different HWPs may also protect against GI parasites and fleas/ticks.



### Options—

Let us help you choose the best product for you and your pet!

## No excuses!

ALL dogs and cats in our area of the country should be on regular Heartworm Prevention (HWP) YEAR-ROUND.

Heartworm (HW) Disease is a serious and sometimes fatal parasitic infestation carried by mosquitos that can be spread to our dogs and cats. Prevention is safe and affordable. Our Doctors are always happy to answer any questions you might have regarding this issue.

1

### ANNUAL TESTING

Best medical practice is a simple, once a year screening to ensure your pet is HW free!

2

### PREVENTION

Follow dosing instructions as recommended by your veterinarian.

3

### ENVIRONMENT

Mosquito control will help limit HW and other diseases in your immediate area.

## Canine Heartworm Disease

Dogs with HW may cough, have bloated bellies, low energy levels, or may show no signs at all!

After being bitten by an infected mosquito, the heartworm goes through several stages of development and ends up as adult worms (up to a foot long!) living in the right side of your dog's heart. These worms cause damage to the heart muscles and can be released in to the blood vessels of the lungs where they act like clots causing pulmonary damage and even impairing blood flow to/from the rest of the body.

Treatment for HW disease in dogs is prolonged, difficult, and expensive. HW can cause permanent damage to the heart and lungs. It is much easier and cost-efficient to prevent than to treat.

We have multiple options available for dogs—all work to kill any HW larvae your pet may have encountered over the last 6 months.



## Cats matter, too!

HW disease has become more prevalent in the feline population over the last several years. Cats with HW may cough, vomit, or may not exhibit signs until it is too late. Unlike their canine counterparts, there is no cure for heartworms in cats. We can only try to manage their symptoms. Because of this, testing and prevention is almost more important for cats than it is for dogs! Thankfully, we have multiple options for HW prevention for our feline friends, including products that are topical and easy to administer (because who doesn't love giving a pill to their cat every month?!?!?).

## THE MYTHS...

My dog doesn't go outside... Does he always pee/poop in the house?? I have an indoor cat... There are species of mosquitos that have evolved to live indoors with us and our pets!! My pet is too furry to get bitten... Mosquitos love to target the nose, eyelids, and hairless areas on the inside of your pets' ears. We don't have mosquitos where I live... Please tell me where that is so I can move!! Heartworm Disease is a myth perpetuated by veterinarians and Big Pharma... I wish, losing dogs and cats to something that is so easy to prevent is demoralizing, frustrating, and heartbreaking for all of us here... Please—HELP US TO HELP YOU!!

