



Heartworm

Heartworm disease can readily kill dogs, but it's also readily preventable.

HOW DO DOGS GET HEARTWORM?

- Mosquitos transmit heartworm to your dog by depositing larvae onto their skin while ingesting blood
- The larvae migrate through the wound made by the feeding mosquito and migrate through your dog's body and make their way to the heart where they develop into adult worms.
- The adult heartworm live in the heart and nearby blood vessels and interfere with heart function and eventually can cause heart failure

SIGNS OF HEARTWORM

The following symptoms can be seen once the worms have developed into adults and have damaged the heart and surrounding vessels

- Coughing
- Lethargy
- Exercise intolerance
- Loss of appetite
- Enlarged abdomen
- Fainting

HOW TO CHECK FOR HEARTWORM PRIOR TO SIGNS OF HEART DAMAGE:

- Your veterinarian can diagnose heartworm through a simple blood test
- X-rays and ultrasounds might also be used

TREATMENT

- Treatment for heartworm can be expensive and dangerous
- Prevention is a much better choice
- Preventative medications for heartworm are available in topical, oral or an injectable formulation that is administered by your veterinarian.

