

HEARTWORM DISEASE:



TESTING SAVES LIVES!

Heartworm Disease

Heartworms are one of the most dangerous parasites for both dogs and cats. Heartworm infection takes place when a mosquito carrying microscopic-size heartworm larvae bites your pet. The larvae enter through the bite wound where they develop in the tissues. The immature worms then enter a blood vessel and are carried to the arteries in the heart and lungs.

Heartworm Symptoms

Common signs of heartworm disease in dogs can include:

- Fatigue
- Coughing
- Weight loss

Heartworm disease is not just a canine disease. Heartworms affect cats differently than dogs, and only 1 or 2 worms can cause serious or even fatal disease in cats. Common signs of feline heartworm disease include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing
- Vomiting
- Collapse
- Convulsion
- Diarrhea
- Sudden Death

Heartworm Testing

Heartworm testing is also part of the annual wellness exam, even if your pet is currently on heartworm preventative medication. All heartworm preventatives are FDA drugs that require a prescription, and annual heartworm testing is required for dogs in order to refill your prescriptions. All heartworm tests require a blood sample.

It only takes one mosquito to infect your pet and, because mosquitoes get indoors, both indoor and outdoor pets are at risk and should receive monthly heartworm prevention.

Heartworm disease is harmful, and can be fatal, *but very preventable*. We recommend Revolution, a topical year-round preventative for both dogs and cats. Sentinel is a monthly tablet that is also an effective heartworm preventative for dogs. Please talk with the doctor to pick the drug that is best for you and your pet.