

Heartworm Preventative Facts:



All dogs and cats are at risk for contracting heartworms and intestinal parasites.



Heartworms are carried by mosquitoes and injected into the bloodstream. They then multiply, cause damage to the heart and blood vessels, and eventually cause heart failure and death in dogs and cats.



Heartworm infection is **undetectable** in its early stages; by the time dogs are showing symptoms they may already have **heart damage**. Unfortunately the most common first sign in cats is **acute death**. Yearly screening with a heartworm test is strongly recommended and required in order to purchase preventative.



Heartworm disease can be treatable in dogs (not cats), but it is **expensive** (avg. \$1,500). They are treated with a harsh chemical that can also cause illness in the pet and requires strict rest and isolation. Your pet will need to be kept isolated and under **strict rest for 3-4 months**.



Heartworm disease is not uncommon in our area and the number of infected pets has been on the rise. Current statistics show that **Missouri is a high risk state** for contracting heartworms; **1 out of 58 dogs** test positive.



Heartworm preventative is recommended all year round for the following reasons:

- Heartworm preventative works by killing baby heartworms that are less than 30 days old. It works backwards, meaning **if you are late giving it** the baby heartworms can grow into the next stage that the medicine doesn't kill, so heartworms can be growing to adults without any signs. Most people are not perfect at giving the heartworm prevention on time all year round; hence a yearly test is required.
- Heartworm preventative also prevents against intestinal parasite infection (ex. roundworms and hookworms) which your pet can acquire during any time of the year. **These non-seasonal parasites can be transmitted to your family; children are most at risk.**



If you purchase heartworm preventative **from a licensed veterinarian** for year-round protection, and any infection occurs, the heartworm preventative company's guarantee will **cover the cost of the heartworm treatment** for your pet as well as another 12 month supply of prevention. You are also guaranteed the product you receive is **not counterfeit, it was stored and transported properly, and is safe for your pet.**

I understand all of the above information, and choose to **decline** the heartworm preventative. I understand that **Animal Medical Center of Wentzville IS NOT liable** if my pet contracts heartworm disease or my pet or family member contracts an intestinal parasite infection.

Pet's name

Owner's name

Date

In addition to the manufacturer's guarantee and the reassurance you are receiving a safe, effective product, at Animal Medical Center of Wentzville our prices are always comparable to the well-known online pet pharmacies.



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