



HEARTWORM PREVENTION

Heartworm disease is a very serious, even a **potentially deadly** condition caused by parasitic worms living in the arteries of the lungs and in the right side of the heart of dogs (as well as several other mammals, including cats) that is **spread only by mosquitoes**. Fortunately, heartworm disease can easily be prevented by medications available through veterinarians.

What Are the Signs of Heartworm Disease?

For both dogs and cats, clinical signs of heartworm disease may not be seen in the early stages. As the number of heartworms in an animal tends to accumulate over a period of months or years, and after repeated mosquito bites, the signs of heartworm disease become more obvious.

Dogs that have been only recently infected may not exhibit any signs of the disease at all, while more heavily infected dogs usually show clinical signs, including a mild, persistent cough; reluctance to move or exercise; fatigue after only moderate exercise; reduced appetite and weight loss. As the disease progresses, there can be significant changes in the liver, which can lead to leakage of fluid into the abdominal (belly) cavity.

In cats, vomiting is often more common to see than coughing or fatigue.

In dogs, adult heartworms can live *5 to 7 years* in the heart and lungs! Adult male heartworms can be 4-6 inches, and females 10-12 inches !!!

How Do You Detect Heartworm Disease?

Heartworm infection is diagnosed with a blood test, although the presence of heartworms cannot be detected until ~7 months after a bite from a carrier mosquito has occurred. Occasionally, heartworm infection can be found through ultrasound and/or x-ray images of the heart and lungs, although these tests are usually performed in animals already known to be infected.

Prevention ! Prevention !! Prevention !!!

Heartworm prevention is safe, easy and inexpensive. While treatment for heartworm disease in dogs is possible, it can be a difficult and expensive process, taking weeks for infected animals to recover. There is no safe treatment for heartworm disease in cats, so disease prevention is the essential for cats.

There are a variety of options for preventing heartworm infection in both dogs and cats, including (1) once-a-month chewable tablets, (2) once-a-month topical liquids, and (3) a six-month injectable product (only for dogs). All of these methods are extremely effective, and when given on a timely schedule, heartworm infection can be completely prevented. These medications interrupt heartworm development before adult worms reach the heart and lungs and cause disease. **There is no single best Heartworm Prevention ~ All our preventions are equally effective preventing heartworm disease !**

At Carolina Value Pet Care, we do not use the ProHeart *injectable* heartworm prevention because of the risk of a reaction. Dogs with known skin allergies should not use ProHeart injectable, and the ProHeart injection should never be given at the same time as vaccines. – Dr Bob Parrish & Carolina Value Pet Care

HEARTWORM PREVENTIONS For DOGS	Form	Frequency	Minimum Age & Minimum Weight	Prevents Heartworm Disease	Kills Fleas	Kills Flea Eggs	Kills Flea Larvae	Kills Ticks	Prevent Roundworms	Prevent Hookworms	Prevent Whipworms	Prevent Tapeworms	Your Pet's Weight	Carolina Value PC		1-800-PetMeds *Online Store* (1/1/2016)	YOU SAVE !!!
														6 pack Price	Single Dose		
1) Triflexis (Combines Comfortis + Heartworm prevention)	Chewable Tablet by Mouth	Once A Month	8+ weeks 5+ lbs	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		5-10#	\$ 90 / 6pk	17.50	\$ 109.99/ 6pk	\$ 20 + 10
													10-20#	\$ 93	17.50	\$ 112.99	\$ 20 + 10
													20-40#	\$ 96	18.50	\$ 116.99	\$ 21 + 10
													40-60#	\$ 99	18.50	\$ 118.99	\$ 20 + 10
													60-120#	\$ 102	19.50	\$ 121.99	\$ 20 + 10
\$10 Online Rebate w/ Purchase of 6 pack ... \$25 Rebate w/ 2 6 pks of same size																	
2) TriHeart Plus (Same as Heartgard)	Chewable Tablet by Mouth	Once A Month	6+ weeks 0+ lbs	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes			0-25#	\$ 24 / 6pk	\$ 6	\$ 28.99/ 6pk	\$ 5
													26-50#	\$ 30	\$ 7	\$ 37.99	\$ 8
													51-100#	\$ 38	\$ 8	\$ 44.99	\$ 7
+ \$ 5 Mail-in Rebate w/ Purchase of 2 6pks (12 doses)																	
3) Iverhart Max	Chewable Tablet by Mouth	Once A Month	6+ weeks 6+ lbs	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes		Yes	6-12#	\$ 24 / 6pk	\$ 5	\$ 32.48 / 6pk	\$ 8.48 + 5
													12-25#	\$ 27	\$ 6	\$ 32.49	\$ 5.49 + 5
													26-50#	Unavailable	\$ 6		
													51-100#	Unavailable	\$ 8		
+ \$ 5 Mail-in Rebate w/ Purchase of 6 pack ... \$12 Rebate w/ 2 6pks - Exp 12/31/15																	
4) Sentinel	Chewable Tablet by Mouth	Once A Month	4+ weeks 2+ lbs	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		2-10#	\$ 40 / 6pk	\$ 8	\$ 42.99/ 6pk	\$ 13
													11-25#	\$ 40	\$ 8	\$ 44.99	\$ 15
													26-50#	\$ 46	\$ 9	\$ 52.99	\$ 17
													51-100#	\$ 55	\$ 10	\$ 62.99	\$ 18
													+ \$10 Online Rebate w/ Purchase of 6 pack ... \$25 Rebate w/ 2 6pks - Exp 3/31/2016				
5) Sentinel Spectrum	Chewable Tablet by Mouth	Once A Month	6+ weeks 2+ lbs	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2-8#	\$ 42 / 6pk	\$ 8	\$ 49.99/ 6pk	\$ 23
													8-25#	\$ 44	\$ 9	\$ 52.99	\$ 24
													26-50#	\$ 52	\$ 10	\$ 62.99	\$ 26
													51-100#	\$ 59	\$ 11	\$ 74.99	\$ 31
													+ \$15 Online Rebate w/ Purchase of 6 pack ... \$35 Rebate w/ 2 6pks - Exp 3/31/2016				
6) Revolution Sizes for Dogs >5 lbs only from our Online Store	Liquid Applied to Back of Neck	Once A Month	6+ weeks 0+ lbs	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	American Dog Tick Only	No	No	No	No	0-5# + More sizes up to 130 #	\$40 / 3pk	\$ 15	\$ 47.99 / 3pk	\$ 8
														* Larger sizes available on our CVPC Online Store (website)			

Carolina Value Pet Care Heartworm Testing Policy

*** Please realize that a lot of veterinary clinics want nothing more than for us to shut down / put us out of business because of our low prices on vaccines and pet products. When we first started CVPC, we trusted our clients to give us an honest answer when asked if their dogs were on prevention. (Imagine that ~ What a concept ! We actually trusted our clients since we realize they want what is best for their pet.) Not performing a heartworm test on every dog was a concern among the protesting clinics, and their concerns were voiced to the NC Veterinary Medical Board. So now, by performing a heartworm test on every dog that we have on prevention, that puts an end to their argument of us not running the test. No more complaints by other vets, so we will remain in business to keep saving you money on basic pet care. ***

Q: Why does my dog need to be tested for heartworm disease before starting it on prevention ?

A: Heartworm disease is a serious, even life-threatening disease. (But it can be successfully treated and cured.) To find out if your dog has the disease, we take a blood sample, then perform a test which takes ~10 minutes to run. If he/she does not have the disease (a Negative test), we strongly recommend putting him/her on heartworm prevention. However, if your dog does have heartworm disease (a Positive test), there are 2 different treatment options, and we will explain your choices. **Since some heartworm preventions can have serious adverse effects on your dog if he/she already has the disease, we need to find out if the disease is present before starting prevention. Plus, if you know your dog has the disease (heartworm Positive), then you'll be better prepared for the potential risks and life-threatening nature of the disease, what symptoms to look for, etc.** "Not wanting to know" if your dog has heartworm disease or not is certainly not in the best interest of your dog.

**ALL HEARTWORM MEDICATION is by PRESCRIPTION ONLY,
so we must --- by law --- see (or have seen) your pet**

We also need to confirm your dog's weight to make sure they are getting the proper dose.

* You'd be surprised by how many dogs we see that are not getting the right dose since the dogs had gained weight, or the owners were trying to pinch pennies and 'cheat' with a lower dosage, or the owners were giving the prevention only on occasion (such as failing to give it during the winter months) rather than once-a-month as prescribed. And some dogs tend to throw up the medication (in particular, Trifexis), and if you don't re-medicate them , or if you don't even know the pill was spit up, then your dog would not be protected. We've seen several of these dogs that tested Positive for the disease even though they were presumably "on prevention".

THE CVPC HEARTWORM TEST / PREVENTION POLICY:

- 1) As mentioned above, we must - by law - see or have seen your pet (there is no charge for this)**
- 2) If we (Carolina Value Pet Care) have tested your dog in the past 24 months and you have kept your dog continuously on heartworm medication (purchased either through us or another vet clinic), then you may purchase heartworm prevention.**
- 3) If we have seen your dog and you provide documentation (either a printed invoice or invoice on your cell phone) that your dog has been tested for heartworm disease within the past 12 months by another vet clinic ... AND ... documentation that shows the purchase of heartworm medication, then you may purchase heartworm prevention.**
- 4) If you provide (or send a scanned copy to us via email) a recent prescription for heartworm medication from another vet clinic, then you may purchase heartworm medication ... *even if we have never seen your dog !***
- 5) If it's been more than 2 years since Carolina Value Pet Care has performed a heartworm test, then we must perform a heartworm test before we can dispense any medication**

Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation. And thank you for supporting our efforts.

W. Robert Parrish, DVM