

# HEARTWORM DISEASE

**Know The Facts.  
Practice Prevention.  
It's A Matter Of Life  
And Death.**



## FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS HEARTWORM DISEASE?



Heartworm disease is a preventable, but serious and potentially fatal parasitic disease that primarily affects dogs and cats. The disease attacks both the heart and lungs. Heartworms are transmitted by infected mosquitoes. A SINGLE BITE FROM AN INFECTED MOSQUITO IS ALL IT TAKES. Indoor pets and those with thick coats are equally at risk. Heartworms are a nationwide threat, but are an epidemic in this part of the country.

### HOW CAN I TELL IF MY PET HAS HEARTWORM DISEASE?

Your pet can be infected and show no signs of illness if their heartworm disease is in the early stages. In later stages, your pet may develop a cough, become lethargic, lose their appetite or may have difficulty breathing. You may notice that your pet tires rapidly after moderate activity. The most efficient way to find out if your pet has heartworm disease is to have him tested by your vet...the sooner, the better.



### CAN AN INFECTED PET BE TREATED?



In many canine cases, yes. The earlier the disease is diagnosed, the better the chances are for recovery. Other diagnostic tests may be necessary to determine whether or not your dog can safely undergo treatment. The treatment is long, carries risks of it's own and is very hard on a dog. The best course of action is prevention. (Currently, there are no approved products in the U.S. for treating heartworm infection in cats.)

### CAN HEARTWORM DISEASE BE PREVENTED?

YES! YES! YES! Here's the GOOD NEWS... heartworms are very easy to prevent. Prior to beginning heartworm preventative, your vet will do a blood test to make sure your pet does not have heartworms. Your vet will then prescribe either a monthly chewable or a monthly topical solution that you will give your pet on the same date, every month. Your vet will be able to recommend the preventative that is right for your pet. Once your pet is on a regular prevention program, your vet will test your pet for heartworms at each annual check-up, just as an added precaution. It's that simple!



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Hotline: 972.381.0709; 972.286.5778
- SADIE Miniature Pinscher Rescue  
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- Texas Animal Shelter Coalition  
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