

"An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure."

Ben Franklin

Get the Facts on Heartworm Disease. Learn How to Protect Your Dog & Cat.



"How Does An Animal Become Infected With Heartworm Disease?"

Heartworm disease is carried by mosquitoes. A SINGLE BITE FROM AN INFECTED MOSQUITO IS ALL IT TAKES TO INFECT YOUR DOG OR CAT. The bite typically occurs on the animal's nose, so pets with long, thick coats are equally at risk.

Humans can not contract heartworms from animals. Animals, also, can not contract heartworms from other animals. (The only exception is that it is possible for a pregnant dog to pass along heartworms to her puppies.)

"Where, In The U.S., Are Heartworms A Problem - And When?"

Heartworms are everywhere. Infestations have been reported in all 50 states. Spring and summer are the most dangerous times of year, but heartworms can be contracted year-round.

Here in Texas, with our hot, humid climate, heartworm disease is rampant.

"My Pets Are Kept Indoors Only, So Aren't They Protected?"

Indoor pets can and do develop heartworm disease. In recent studies, one-third of heartworm-infected cats had spent their lives indoors only. Mosquitoes can easily gain access to a home through open windows or doors.

Dogs who live indoors are at risk every time they go outdoors for a bathroom break or a walk.



"My Dog Seems Very Healthy, So No Need To Worry, Right?"

Wrong - an animal can have heartworm disease and not show any symptoms for a long time. Particularly with cats, where they can appear completely normal up until the time of death. The only way to know for sure is to have a simple blood test conducted by your vet.

"Is Heartworm Disease Really That Serious?"

Very. Heartworm disease is fatal. It is very difficult (and expensive) to treat in dogs. There is currently no approved heartworm treatment for cats.

"How Do I Protect My Pet?"

The GOOD NEWS is that HEARTWORM DISEASE IS VERY EASY AND INEXPENSIVE TO PREVENT IN BOTH DOGS AND CATS. First, have your pet tested by your veterinarian. If your pet tests heartworm-negative, your vet will prescribe either an oral or topical monthly heartworm preventative medication.

"What Do I Need To Do After That?"

Consistency is the key! It is essential that your pet receive heartworm preventative every month, for the rest of his or her life. In the case of a rapidly-growing puppy, make sure the dose you are giving each month corresponds with your puppy's current weight. Your vet will also conduct an annual heartworm test, as an added precaution.

American Boston Terrier Rescue
972.407.4440; www.bostonterrierrescue.net

Animal Rescue Klub (ARK)
www.animalrescueklub.org; 972.562.HELP

Animal Rescue of Texas
www.animalrescueoftexas.org; 214.276.7802

Boston Terrier Rescue of North Texas
www.texasbostonians.com; 214.746.7913

Camp Wolfgang (German Shepherd Dog Rescue)
214.520.7000; www.campwolfgang.petfinder.com

Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc.
www.chihuahua-rescue.org

City Pet Rescue (CPR)
www.citypetrescue.com

Coppell Humane Society
www.coppellhumaneociety.com; 972.462.1121

Dachshund Lovers of Texas
www.dachshundloversoftexas.org; 214.577.7536

DFW Cocker Spaniel Rescue
www.dfwcockerrrescue.8m.com; 972.994.1133

DFW Labrador Retriever Rescue Club
972.881.5544; www.dfwlabrescue.org

DFW Sheltie Rescue
www.sheltie.org; 972.994.7848

DFW Tzus And More Rescue
www.dfwtzusandmorerescue.com; 888.290.3335

East Lake Pet Orphanage
214.349.ELPO (3576); www.elpo.org

Frisco Humane Society
www.friscohumaneociety.com; 972.498.8980

Great Dane Angel Network Rescue
817.361.9855; www.daneangelnetwork.org

Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART)
www.hartoftexas.org; 214.332.9535

Humane Society of Flower Mound
www.fmhs.org; 972.691.7387

Legacy Boxer Rescue
www.savetheboxers.com; 1.877.5BOXERS

North Texas Samoyed Rescue, Inc.
www.nortexasamrescue.org; 214.350.1953

SADIE Foundation
www.sadie.petfinder.com; k9kids1@verizon.net

Save The Animals Rescue Society (STARS)
www.starspets.com; 972.459.9181

Saving Pyrs In Need (SPIN)
www.SPINrescue.org; 972.681.8585

Scottie Kingdom Rescue, Inc.
www.scottiekingdom.com

Tassie's Hope Animal Rescue
www.tassieshope.org; 214.550.2648

Texas Animal Shelter Coalition
817.392.3737; www.sheltercoalition.com

Texas Tailwaggers Village Rescue
txtailwaggers@aol.com; txtailwaggers.petfinder.org

Westie Rescue of North Texas
214.432.7541; www.wrnt.org

There Are More Animals Than There Are Homes. Please Spay or Neuter Your Pet!