

PROTECT YOUR DOG. PREVENT HEARTWORM DISEASE.



AMERICAN
HEARTWORM
SOCIETY™
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Heartworm disease is preventable—and year-round protection is the safest choice.



WHAT ARE HEARTWORMS?

Heartworms are dangerous worms that live in a dog's heart, lungs and blood vessels.

- Heartworms look like spaghetti noodles and can grow to be more than a foot long.
- They can live and grow inside a dog for years.
- A dog with heartworms may cough, have trouble breathing, tire easily, develop heart failure, or even die.



HOW DO DOGS GET HEARTWORMS?

Dogs get heartworms from the bite of an infected mosquito.

- Just one mosquito bite can lead to heartworm infection.
- Once a dog is infected, it takes about 6 months for the heartworms to grow big enough to be detected on a heartworm test.
- Adult heartworms can also make babies. If a mosquito bites an infected dog, it can pass along new infections to other pets.



HOW CAN HEARTWORMS BE PREVENTED?

The good news is that heartworm disease is easy to prevent.

- Heartworm medicine comes as a monthly chew, a monthly topical, or an injection your veterinarian gives once or twice a year.
- Heartworm medicines are very safe and effective when given on time.
- Many heartworm medications also protect dogs from other parasites.
- Heartworm medicine does NOT keep mosquitoes from biting your dog. Instead, it kills the tiny heartworms that infected your dog during the past month—before they can grow into adults.
- If you miss or delay a dose, the tiny worms can keep growing and cause heartworm disease.



WHY YEAR-ROUND PREVENTION IS THE BEST CHOICE

Some people think heartworm medicine is only needed in warm months. But year-round protection is the safest choice. Here's why:



Mosquitoes can be active whenever the temperature is above 55°. Warm spells and shifting climate trends make it hard to know when mosquitoes are gone.



When the weather turns colder, mosquitoes can come inside and bite pets. They can also survive winter by hiding out in garages and sheds.



Because of heat held by pavement and buildings, cities and towns often stay warmer than surrounding areas. This allows mosquitoes to survive longer.



Giving heartworm medicine all year long is a healthy habit. It is much easier to remember than stopping and starting the medicine when the calendar changes.



Year-round prevention is cost effective. Heartworm treatment can cost as much—or more—than a lifetime of prevention.

The American Heartworm Society recommends year-round heartworm prevention for dogs.

Talk with your veterinarian about the best heartworm medicine for your dog.
Giving heartworm prevention all year long can help keep your dog healthy.