

Can we turn down the dial on heartworm risk?



Year-round heartworm prevention.

Heartworm preventives are almost **100% effective**.

The American Heartworm Society recommends giving pets heartworm preventives **12 months** a year (and testing pets for heartworm **every 12 months**).

Keeping pets inside during peak mosquito times.

Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes, so it's helpful to minimize your pet's exposure.

Giving heartworm preventives on time, every time.

No matter what type of heartworm medication your pet is on, being on time with administration is essential for heartworm prevention.



Eliminating standing water.

Female mosquitoes lay their eggs in or near water, and produce **100-300** eggs at once—eggs that hatch in around 48 hours.

And fewer mosquitoes = fewer heartworms.



Climate Change.

According to the National Climate Assessment, the length of the frost-free season has been increasing nationally since the 1980s—and the trend is projected to continue. And warmer weather = more mosquitoes.



Severe storms.

Since 2000, North America has averaged **15** tropical storms per year, including **7** hurricanes. Hurricanes and other storms can lead to abandoned pets, interruption of care and **LOTS** of standing water where mosquitoes can breed.



Mosquito migration.

More than **200** species of mosquitoes live in the U.S., and an estimated **25** of these are known to transmit heartworms. Some of those species have been around for some time, while others are recent arrivals.



Second-guessing heartworm "season".

Giving heartworm preventives only during so-called peak mosquito season can leave pets unprotected/vulnerable. No one knows when we'll see the **first** mosquito in the spring or the **last** one in the fall.

LOW

HIGH



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