

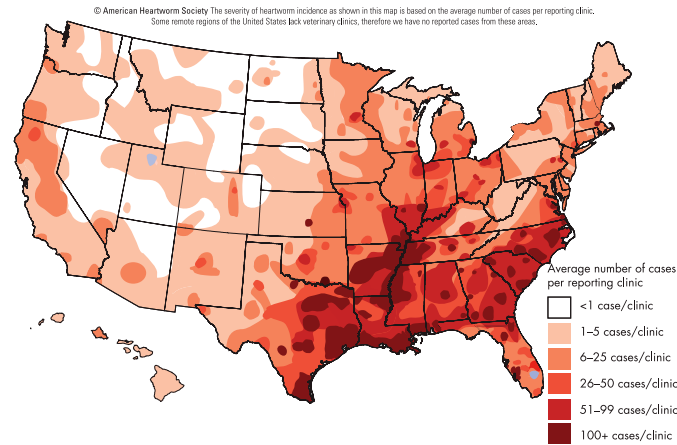
Did you know?

- **Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes**—if there are mosquitoes in your area, your dog is at risk!
- **Wildlife in your area can be a source of infection.** Mosquitoes that bite an infected fox, wolf, or coyote can then transmit the infection to unprotected dogs.
- **Even dogs that look healthy can be infected** with heartworms, so annual testing for heartworm disease is recommended.
- **Annual testing is critical** to avoid a delay in detecting early infection and starting life-saving therapy, as heartworms can cause significant damage to your dog's heart and lungs.
- **Heartworm preventive medications are very effective** when given properly on the prescribed schedule.
- **The best way to reduce the risk of heartworm infection in your dog is to give the preventive medication year-round.** Mosquitoes can survive all year, even in parts of the country where there is a cold winter, so all dogs are at risk.
- **While heartworms can be eliminated, prevention is always safer and more affordable** than treating adult heartworm infections.



Heartworm disease is found in all 50 states.

2019 HEARTWORM INCIDENCE



The cornerstone of heartworm management is prevention.

The American Heartworm Society recommends year-round administration of a heartworm preventive medication and annual testing for heartworm disease for all dogs.



To learn more about the increasing threat of heartworm disease, talk to your veterinarian and visit the American Heartworm Society website at www.heartwormsociety.org.

Learn more about the Association of Shelter Veterinarians at www.sheltervet.org.

© 2015 Association of Shelter Veterinarians

What You Need to Know about **Heartworms** and Your Newly Adopted Dog



Keep Them Safe. Love Them Always.

Prepared by the American Heartworm Society and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians

Congratulations on the adoption of your new family member!

Rescuing and rehoming animals is a team effort, and we would not be able to save animals if it weren't for dedicated adopters like you! Thank you.

Along with the joys of pet ownership come responsibilities, and one of the most important of these is protecting your dog against heartworm disease.

Whether the preventive medication is given orally, topically, or by injection, all approved heartworm preventives work to keep your dog from developing heartworm disease. Preventives work by eliminating the youngest worms in the first few weeks after they have been deposited by mosquitoes.

We recommend taking your dog to your veterinarian for annual visits for a heartworm test and to get preventive medication to use all year long.

Has my new dog been tested for heartworm disease?

As much as we would like to, we are not able to test or treat dogs for heartworm infection at this shelter. You will need to talk to your veterinarian about testing and how to best protect your new pet from this dangerous disease.



What will I learn when I take my dog to my veterinarian for a heartworm test?

We hope you will hear that your dog's heartworm test is "negative". A negative test means "no antigen detected" (NAD). Even if the test result is "negative" (NAD) for heartworm disease, that still does not mean your dog is 100% in the clear.

Some stages of heartworm infection may not be detected on a heartworm test. Three NAD results, spaced six months apart, with the dog on preventive the entire time is the only way to classify a dog as heartworm negative.

What if my dog tests positive for heartworm infection?

Dogs with heartworm disease can live high quality lives as long as they are given appropriate care. Without treatment, however, heartworm disease will worsen and can lead to more serious illness in your dog's heart and lungs.

Your veterinarian will be able to describe the steps that need to be taken to treat your dog, which may include further tests to determine the degree of damage done by the heartworms.

Heartworm treatment is generally undertaken in stages over several months. While heartworm treatment is extremely effective, it is not without risk, and it can be expensive. Consult your veterinarian for an estimate of treatment costs for your pet.

Will you take the dog back if it has a positive test for heartworm disease?

Please discuss our return policy with our adoption staff prior to finalizing your dog's adoption.

All medical expenses for testing, treatment (if needed), and prevention are the responsibility of the adopter.

The veterinarians listed below are familiar with our testing policy and are happy to see recently adopted dogs.

Please make an appointment today.

