

WHEN SHOULD **MY DOG** BE TESTED FOR HEARTWORMS?

My dog is on year-round heartworm prevention



Screen annually during routine check-ups



WHY?

Even if you're faithful about giving heartworm prevention, your dog may spit out pills OR not fully absorb topical medications if they're misapplied. Annual testing confirms your dog's prevention program is working AND catches any possible heartworm infections early.

I have a new puppy that's on heartworm prevention



Test your pup at 7 months, then annually



WHY?

Heartworm infection can't be detected until 6 or 7 months after dogs are infected, so testing at an earlier age isn't recommended. Assuming your pup stays on year-round prevention, annual testing after this is often enough.

I adopted a rescue dog that tested negative at the shelter



Re-test 6 months post-adoption, then annually



WHY?

If your dog wasn't on year-round prevention before adoption, they could have been infected. BUT if this happened less than 6 months before they were screened at the shelter, they won't test positive yet. Re-testing 6 months after continuous heartworm prevention is begun will catch early infections and ensure your dog is treated right away.

I missed a dose-(or was it two?)-of heartworm prevention



Test 6 months after the missed dose(s)



WHY?

Missing just one or two doses of prevention puts a dog at risk of becoming infected with heartworms. If you forget to give your dog their medication, they should be tested six months after the missed dose(s) to make sure this didn't happen.

My dog was treated for heartworms



Test 9 months after the FINAL melarsomine injection



WHY?

Dogs treated for heartworms can continue to test positive for months afterwards, because the treatment leaves behind dead worms that can be detected on the heartworm test. A better approach is to wait until at least 9 months after your dog was treated to retest them.