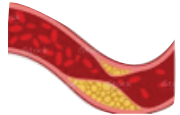


# The ABCs of Heartworm Disease

## Aa



Heartworms live in the **arteries** of infected pets, as well as the heart and lungs.

## Bb



Just 3 drops of **blood** are needed to test dogs for heartworms.

## Cc

A single heartworm can kill a **cat**.



## Dd



Approximately 1 million **dogs** in the U.S. have heartworm disease.

## Ee



Heartworm treatment for dogs is much more **expensive** than prevention.

## Ff

Because **ferrets**



have such tiny hearts, just a few heartworms can be fatal.

## Gg

Giving preventives 12 months a year is better than trying to **guess** when heartworm "season" starts.

## Hh



Severe heartworm infection can cause **heart** failure.

## Ii

Dogs with heartworms are treated with **3 injections** of a medication called melarsomine.



## Jj

**7 MONTHS!**

A dog infected with heartworms in **June** won't test positive until at least the following **January**.

## Kk



Cats can be started on heartworm preventives while they are **kittens**.

## Ll

Heartworms grow from tiny **larvae** to full-grown, foot-long adult worms inside of pets.



## Mm



Heartworms are spread through the bite of infected **mosquitoes**.

## Nn



Only prescription medications can prevent heartworms in pets, not **natural** remedies.

## Oo

Both indoor and **outdoor** pets are at risk of getting heartworms.



## Pp

Heartworm disease is almost 100% **preventable**.

**100%**

## Qq



Dogs treated for heartworms must be kept **quiet** and calm to avoid serious complications.

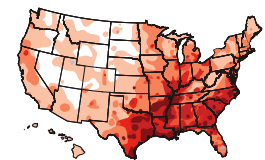
## Rr



Unprotected pets can be at high **risk** of getting heartworms.

## Ss

Heartworms have been diagnosed in all 50 **states**.



## Tt

There's no approved **treatment** for heartworm disease in cats and ferrets, only prevention.



## Uu



**Urban** wildlife like coyotes can be part of the heartworm transmission cycle.

## Vv

Only a **veterinarian** can prescribe heartworm preventives.



## Ww



"A **world** without heartworms" is the vision of the American Heartworm Society.

## Xx



**Xrays** can help veterinarians plan a dog's heartworm treatment.

## Yy



The **year-round** use of heartworm preventives in pets is recommended.

## Zz

**Zoo** animals like lions, tigers, seals and sea lions get heartworm disease, too.



AMERICAN  
HEARTWORM  
SOCIETY™  
EST. 1974

[www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org)