

# The DO's and DON'T's of Feline Heartworm Protection



Prevention is the only way to keep cats heartworm-free.



**DO give your cat his or her heartworm preventive on time, every time.** Whether you prefer giving your kitty a monthly pill or administering a spot-on medication, being consistent is essential. Remember: no heartworm treatment is approved for use in cats (the medication approved for heartworm treatment in dogs is *not* safe for cats), so prevention is the **ONLY** option.

**DON'T rely on "seasonal" heartworm prevention.** Just because you haven't seen a mosquito lately doesn't mean you should stop protecting your cat. Heartworm preventives work retroactively, eliminating new infections that were transmitted months earlier. Rather than guessing at when it might be "safe," keep your kitty on prevention year-round.

**DO give heartworm preventives to all the cats in your household.** The average number of cats in a U.S. household is 2.1, so you may need to double up when purchasing heartworm preventives. If you bring a kitten into your house, he or she should be on a heartworm preventive by 8 weeks of age (follow the product label).

**DON'T skip heartworm prevention just because you have an "indoor" kitty.** Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes, but outdoor cats aren't the only cats at risk. Mosquitoes are sneaky and know how to come inside! In fact, 1 in 4 cases of heartworm infection in cats occurs in indoor kitties.

**DO make sure the product you rely on actually is a heartworm preventive.** With so many parasite protection products on the market, it's easy to get confused. Far too many people assume their flea and tick product is protecting their cat from heartworms when it isn't.

**DON'T forget that many heartworm pills and spot-on products protect against other parasites.** All heartworm preventives for cats prevent at least some intestinal worms, while others also protect against fleas, mites and additional worms. Talk to your veterinarian about what product offers the protection **YOUR** cat needs.

**Think 12. Show your love for your pets by giving them 12 months of heartworm prevention and having them tested for heartworm every 12 months.**



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