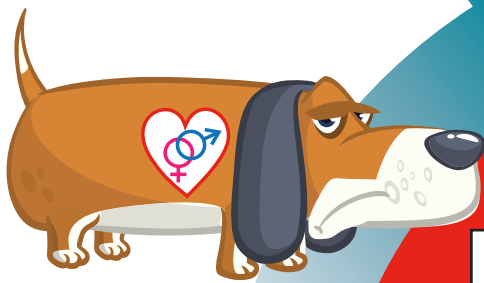
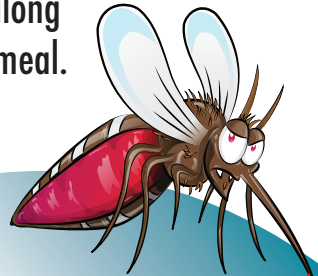


1 It starts with a dog— or a coyote or wolf— with heartworms. Heartworms mate inside infected dogs and produce **millions** of microscopic babies that live in the bloodstream.



2 When a mosquito bites an infected dog, heartworm babies are sucked up along with her blood meal.



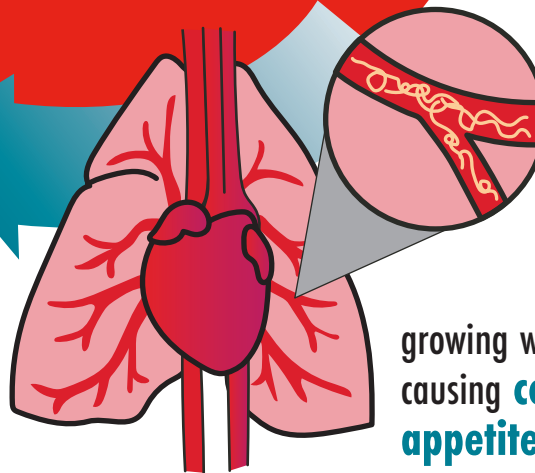
3 For the next **10-14** days, the mosquito provides a nursery for the heartworm babies in her body. The babies develop into larvae and travel to the mouthpiece of the mosquito. The next stop? **Your pet.**



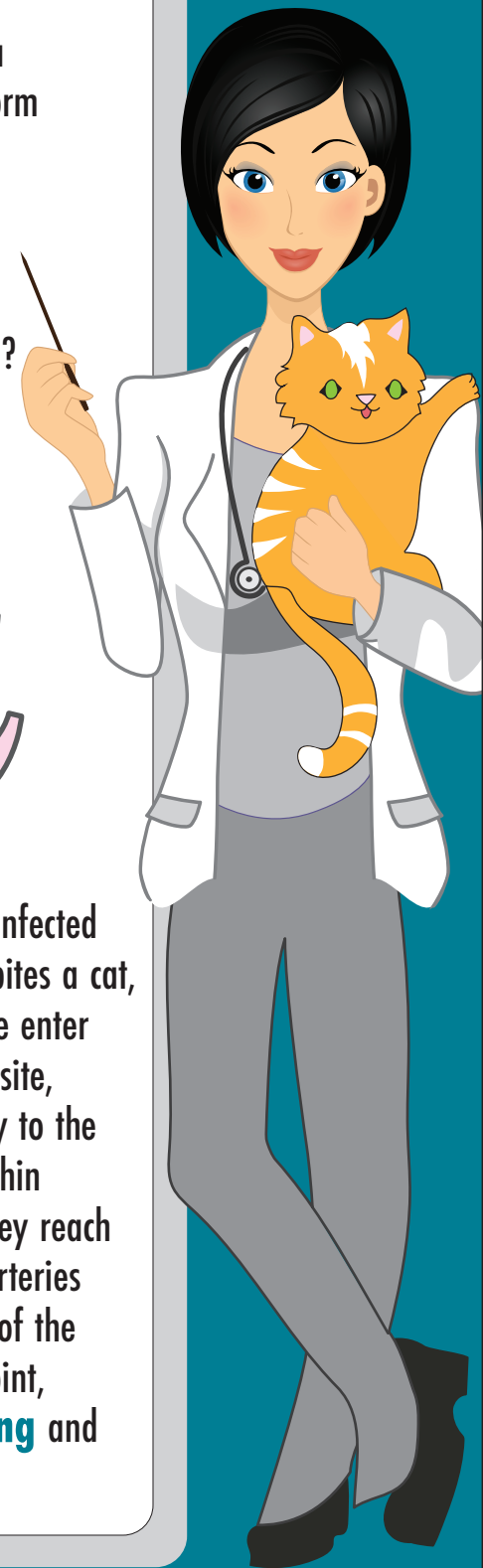
5 In some cats, heartworms survive over the next **2½** months to become adult worms that are **8 to 9** inches long. Just **one or two** adult worms can cause very serious—even fatal—disease. Signs can range from **coughing** and **difficulty breathing** to **seizures** and **sudden death**.



HOW DO CATS GET HEARTWORMS?



4 When the infected mosquito bites a cat, heartworm larvae enter through the bite site, making their way to the bloodstream. Within **3-4** months, they reach the pulmonary arteries and lungs. Most of the growing worms die at this point, causing **coughing, vomiting** and **appetite loss**.



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