

Here's What Heartworms Do to Your Dog



Heartworm disease begins with the bite of an infected mosquito.

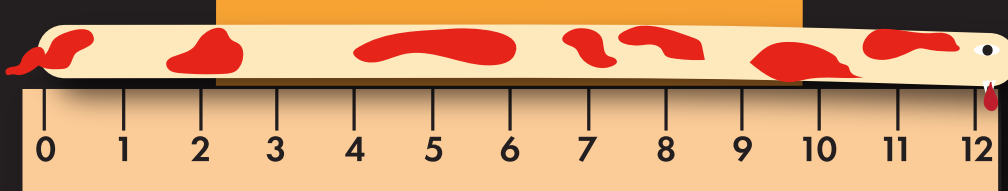
Just **1 bite** can spread microscopic heartworm larvae that grow quickly and make their way to the bloodstream.



Within just **2 or 3 months**, the growing heartworm larvae are **1 to 1.5 inches** long and reach the **heart and arteries of the lungs**.

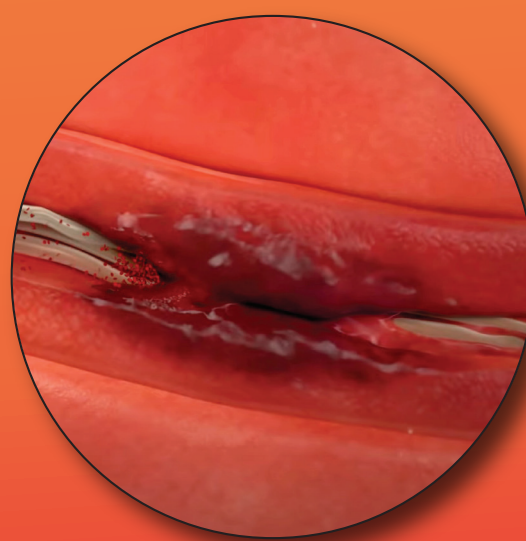
By **6 months** heartworms can grow to **12 inches** in length, all the while causing **damage to arteries** and **restricting blood flow**.

Damage occurs quickly and can be lifelong.



Signs of heartworm infection include cough, unwillingness to **exercise**, **fatigue**, **poor appetite** and **weight loss**. Infected dogs also become a **source of infection** to new animals.

Over time, heartworms die. Clumps of **dead and decomposing worms** — still trapped in the arteries and lungs — form **dangerous clots**. Respiratory distress and heart failure are increasingly likely.



Without **treatment**, dogs can become **very sick** or even **die**. If your dog is diagnosed with heartworms, seek treatment right away. Heartworm prevention, given consistently year-round, is your best chance at avoiding this risk!



AMERICAN
HEARTWORM
SOCIETY™
EST. 1974

PROTECT YOUR PET FROM HEARTWORM **12** MONTHS A YEAR.
TEST FOR HEARTWORM EVERY **12** MONTHS.

www.heartwormsociety.org