MYTH Treating heartworm disease is just as easy as preventing it.

FACT Treatment for canine heartworm disease is expensive as well as traumatic and risky for the dog. The outcome is unpredictable, and treatment:
- Lasts for 4-6 months.
- Requires multiple injections of an arsenic-based drug.
- Requires that the owner crate and isolate the pet for 6-8 weeks.
- Involves significant cost—up to $1,000 or more.

MYTH The owner will notice signs of infection early enough to take action before the disease becomes serious.

FACT In many cases, clinical signs are not noticeable in the early stages of heartworm disease.

MYTH Heartworm infection is spread through contact with infected dogs or their feces.

FACT Heartworm disease is spread only by mosquitoes, and all dogs are at risk.

I understand that my dog/cat is at risk to contract heartworm disease.

I understand that if heartworm disease is contracted it could be fatal.

I understand that treatment for heartworm disease is not guaranteed and can cost up to $1,000 or more.

My veterinarian’s recommendation is ______________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

I hereby decline

☐ Heartworm test

☐ Heartworm preventive

I hold both veterinarian and staff harmless should illness, injury, or death result from declining the recommended care.

Pet Name __________________________________________________________

Veterinarian __________________________________________________________

Pet Owner’s Name ______________________________________________________

Pet Owner’s Signature ________________________________________________

Date ____________________________
COMMON MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT HEARTWORM DISEASE

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There is presently no treatment for cats diagnosed with heartworm disease.
• I understand that my dog/cat is at risk to contract heartworm disease.
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