



Pet Care Center at Luna Park

Heartworm Awareness

APRIL 2024



Heartworm Basics

What is Heartworm?

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in pets in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body.

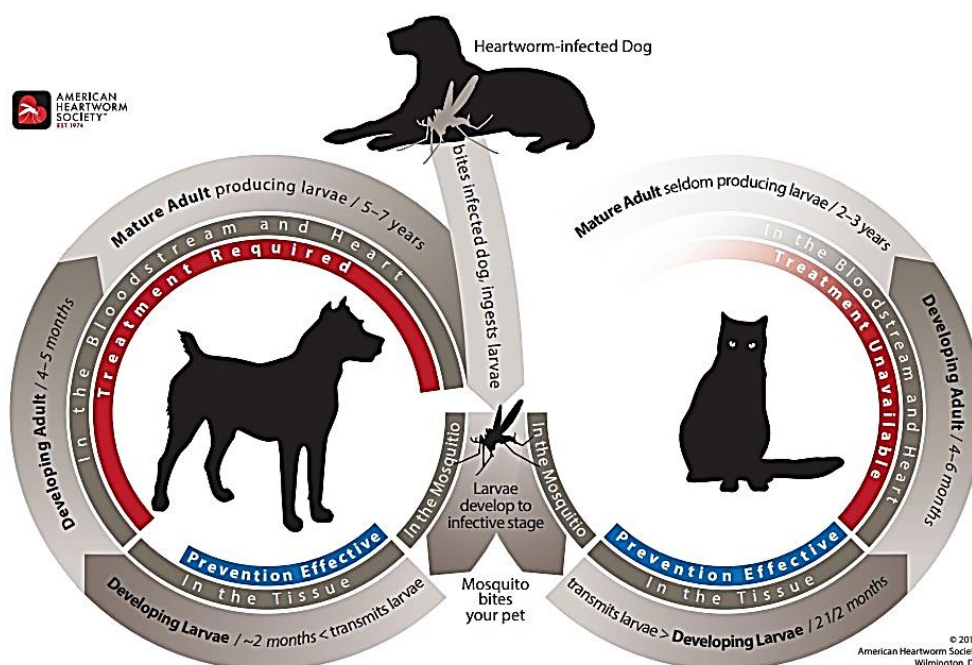
How is it transmitted?

The mosquito plays an essential role in the heartworm life cycle. When a mosquito bites and takes a blood meal from an infected animal, it picks up these baby worms, which develop and mature into “infective stage” larvae over a period of 10 to 14 days. Then, when the infected mosquito bites another dog, cat, or susceptible wild animal, the infective larvae are deposited onto the surface of the animal's skin and enter the new host through the mosquito's bite wound. Once inside a new host, it takes approximately 6 months for the larvae to develop into sexually mature adult heartworms. Once mature, heartworms can live for 5 to 7 years in dogs and up to 2 or 3 years in cats. Because of the longevity of these worms, each mosquito season can lead to an increasing number of worms in an infected pet.

What are the signs of heartworm disease?

Signs of heartworm disease may include a mild persistent cough, reluctance to exercise, fatigue after moderate activity, decreased appetite, and weight loss. As heartworm disease progresses, pets may develop heart failure and the appearance of a swollen belly due to excess fluid in the abdomen. For cats these signs can be more subtle and not noticed until it's too late.

Heartworm Life Cycle:



How To Prevent Heartworm Disease

Medication and Testing

1) Heartworm Preventative Medications – Heartworm preventatives are the best way to protect your pet all year round. Simparica Trio is a great once a month chewable tablet that not only prevents Heartworm but also protects against fleas and intestinal parasites.

2) Testing – Annual testing is suggested for patients both on and off heartworm preventatives. Ensuring a patient is negative for heartworm is necessary prior to a patient starting any heartworm prevention medication.



Employee of the Month!!!

(Sponsored by our friends at Purina)

Congratulations Gill!

Gill loves caring for all our patients, but she especially has a soft spot for our Frenchie's.

She's recently been made our Lead Veterinary Assistant and is taking on the additional responsibility like a champ!

Vetsource Discount Codes

Vetsource is our online pharmacy that can deliver your pets prescriptions right to your door. Check out this month's discount codes.

3/26/24 - 4/8/24 Save 17% on the entire order – MARCHMYSTERY

4/9/24 – 4/22/24 Save \$30 off AutoShip(\$10 off the first 3 orders) – 30PETCARE

4/9/24 - 4/22/24 Save 10 % on the entire order – 10PETS

4/23/24 – 5/6/24 Save 15% on the entire order - 15SPRING