Heartworm Disease: Is Your Dog at Risk?

Heartworm disease is a parasitic infection caused by large worms (up to 12 inches long!) that live in the heart and pulmonary vessels. The immature worms are carried by mosquitos that transmit the parasites when taking a blood meal from your dog. Heartworm disease presents the biggest threat in warmer climates but can be seen anywhere there are mosquitos and has, in fact, been diagnosed in all 50 states.

While the disease is treatable, there are risks to the dog – mostly from the death of the worms which can result in a severe reaction in the lungs. It is therefore far better to prevent heartworm than to treat it. There are a number of safe and easy-to-give preventives available, most of which have the added benefit of preventing some other parasitic infections as well. Assessing your dog’s risk for developing the disease, then selecting appropriate measures for prevention, will keep your dog healthy and heartworm-free.

### Your Dog’s Risk

Risk factors for developing heartworm disease include: environment, your dog’s lifestyle, and previous use of heartworm preventive. Your dog’s individual risk has been classified by our Veterinary Team as:

- **High Risk** Environment: ____________________________ (endemic, transitional, nonendemic)
- **Moderate Risk** Lifestyle: ____________________________ (outdoors, in/out, indoors)
- **Low Risk** Previous preventive use: ____________________________ (frequency of past use)

### Our Recommendations

Based on ____________________________ risk assessment, we recommend the following plan for optimum protection:

- **Heartworm testing:** ____________________________ (frequency)
- **Heartworm prevention:** ____________________________ (type and frequency)

### Don’t Forget!

__________________________ will be due for the next heartworm test: ____________________________ (Pet’s Name) (date)

__________________________ will be due for more heartworm preventive: ____________________________ (Pet’s Name) (month/year)

Please call us at ____________________________ if you have any questions or concerns!

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IN-CLINIC
HEARTWORM RECORD

Pet: _______________________

Date of Birth: ______________

Owner:_____________________

Date: ________________

Risk Assessment

Environment: ____________________________________________________________ (endemic, transitional, nonendemic)

Lifestyle: ______________________________________________________________ (outdoors, in/out, indoors)

Previous heartworm infection of this or any other pet: □ yes □ no

If yes, date: _______________ name of pet: ____________________________

Successfully treated?: __________________

History of owner compliance for heartworm testing/prevention:

□ Good  □ Fair  □ Poor

Risk assessment category given on client take-home sheet:

□ High  □ Moderate  □ Low

Heartworm Prevention Needs

Need for concurrent ecto-/endoparasite control? □ yes □ no

Hospital recommendations for heartworm testing frequency: _________________

Owner preference for heartworm testing frequency: _________________________

Owner preference for heartworm preventive type: ____________________________

(oral [chew/non-chew], topical, etc)

Follow-Up

Last heartworm test performed: ___________________________________________

Last heartworm preventive purchased: ______________________________________

(type and amount)

Due: ________________

Reminder Sent: ________________

Next heartworm test: ________________

Next heartworm preventive purchase: ________________

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