



CANINE HEARTWORM DISEASE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT IS HEARTWORM DISEASE?

Heartworms are internal parasites that are transmitted by the bite of mosquitoes from one animal to another. The mosquito bite releases larvae, called microfilaria, into the dog's subcutaneous tissues. The microfilaria continue to develop as they travel to the dog's heart where they mature into adult worms. These adult worms living in the dog's heart and pulmonary arteries can impede circulation and cause serious problems, including damage to the heart, liver, lungs, and kidneys. Without treatment, heartworm disease will lead to heart failure and death.

IS MY PET AT RISK?

Your pet is indeed at risk! Before 1987, heartworm disease was not a significant health risk in Utah. Nevertheless, the incidence of heartworm disease in Utah has increased rapidly since then. In the year 2000, there were 96 reported cases of heartworm disease in Utah. The number of cases continues to increase each year. Extra risk factors for dogs include exposure to mosquitoes, traveling to other states, and having a short hair coat.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT HEARTWORM DISEASE?

Although there are reliable treatments available for dogs who contract heartworm disease, they are both expensive and potentially fatal to your pet. It is much easier to prevent heartworm disease than it is to treat it! We will first run a simple in-house blood test to determine your dog's heartworm status. After that, you can begin proper preventative treatment. Here are the methods of prevention that we offer:

* **INTERCEPTOR** (milbemycin oxime) is a chewable tablet that is administered to your dog monthly at home. This economical product has the extra advantage of also protecting against roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms.. Dogs enjoy these tablets, but they must be administered consistently every month in order to be effective.

* **REVOLUTION** (selamectin) is a topical solution that is applied once monthly to your pet's scruff. This product has the extra advantage of also treating mites, fleas, and certain species of ticks.. This excellent product is the more expensive of the two, but is certainly warranted in cases of mite, tick, or flea infestation, and for the pet who travels to areas where fleas are a problem.

TO BEGIN HEARTWORM PROTECTION FOR YOUR DOG, TALK TO US TODAY!