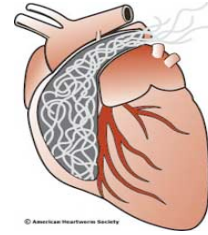




Know Why Your Pet Is Here! **~Heartworm Edition~**



What is heartworm disease?

Heartworm is a parasite found in dogs and cats that is transmitted by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes pass immature worms into the blood stream where eventually these worms migrate to the heart where they live and reproduce. Heartworms can result in potentially fatal heart and lung disease.

Is there a treatment for heartworm disease?

There is a treatment for dogs with heartworm disease but the treatment can be very costly both for you and your pet. There are many possible side effects from treatment as a result of both the medication's toxic effect and the result of having dead worms in the heart and lungs. For these reasons we are very happy to offer preventatives for this serious disease.

Why do we require a yearly heartworm test?

The answer to this question is easy. Every year we have a few positive heartworm tests even on dogs that are on preventative all year around. There are many potential explanations for this but regardless of the cause it is best if we identify these cases as early as possible. Take comfort, however, that if you have purchased Heartgard, Interceptor or Sentinel from a veterinarian, the company will guarantee their product and pay for treatment of any positive dog.

Why do we recommend year round prevention?

Because mosquitoes transmit heartworms, there is a distinct season in Michigan when dogs are at highest risk of heartworm exposure. This season has traditionally started April 1 and ended December 1. We now recommend year around prevention because most heartworm medications also act as an intestinal worm preventative. The risk of being exposed to these intestinal worms occurs all year around. These worms are significant because the most common types of intestinal worms found in pets are contagious to people. Children and immunocompromised people are at an especially high risk of infection that can result in serious disease. For this same reason we now require your pets to have a yearly fecal test to look for these worms and other parasites.

We would be happy to answer any further questions you have as well as to recommend a preventative that may be right for your pet!