

ESSENTIAL HEARTWORM PREVENTION GUIDE

PROTECT YOUR DOG FROM HEARTWORM
WITHOUT HARMFUL MEDS

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PETER DOBIAS DVM

REASONS WHY YOU WANT TO AVOID HEARTWORM MEDS

Here are the adverse events reported to the FDA:

HEARTGARD and TriHeartPlus (ivermectin): Depression/lethargy, vomiting, anorexia, diarrhea, mydriasis, ataxia, staggering, convulsions and hypersalivation.

INTERCEPTOR (milbemycin oxime): Reports the above reactions plus weakness.

SENTINEL (milbemycin oxime): Reports vomiting, depression/lethargy, pruritus, urticaria, diarrhea, anorexia, skin congestion, ataxia, convulsions, hypersalivation and weakness.

REVOLUTION® (selamectin), Topical Parasiticide For Dogs and Cats: Pre-approval reactions of vomiting, loose stool or diarrhea with or without blood, anorexia, lethargy, salivation, tachypnea, and muscle tremors. Post-approval experience included the above plus pruritis, urticaria, erythema, ataxia, fever and rare reports of death and seizures in dogs.

Proheart 6: Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis); facial swelling, itching, difficulty breathing, collapse; lethargy (sluggishness); not eating or losing interest in food; any change in activity level; seizures; vomiting and/or diarrhea (with and without blood); weight loss; pale gums, increased thirst or urination, weakness, bleeding, bruising; rare instances of death. This product was voluntarily withdrawn from the market in 2004 because of deaths but has been reintroduced.

BEFORE YOU GIVE HEARTWORM PREVENTIVE KNOW THESE 2 THINGS...

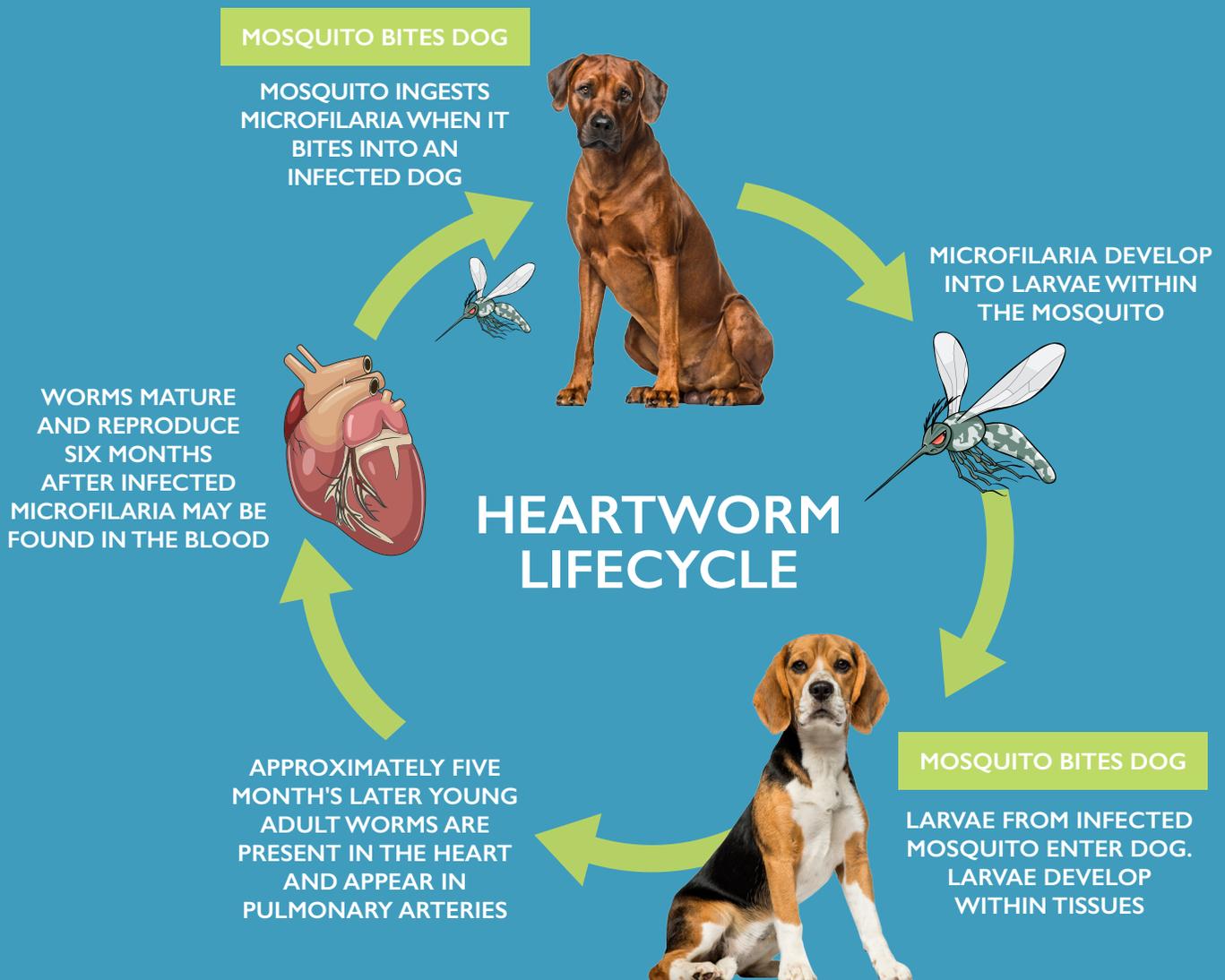
1. The heartworm life cycle is very much dependent on temperature. The parasite's life cycle will not be completed unless the region's average temperature is 57 degrees F (14 C) or more for a period of 45 consecutive days and at least two weeks of temperatures over 80 F. If these conditions aren't met, your dog is very likely safe without giving a heartworm preventive or doing any testing.
2. Based on the recommendations of Dr David Knight and Dr James Lok from the American Heartworm Society, even with the most cautious conventional medical protocols, the year-round heartworm preventive schedule is unnecessary with the exception of Florida and some parts of Texas and Hawaii.



HEARTWORM LIFE CYCLE

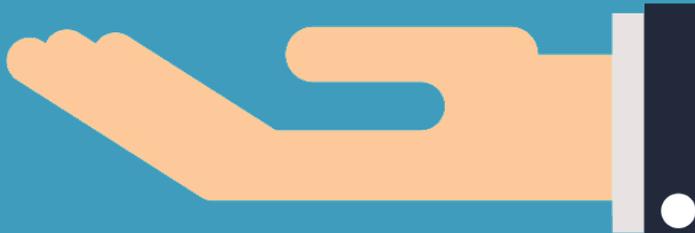
Heartworms go through several developmental stages before reaching maturity and it takes 2 ½ to 4 months before the tiny microfilariae in the first stage leave the muscles and start settling in the pulmonary artery. When heartworm reaches its final destination of the pulmonary artery near the heart, it then takes about 3 to 4 more months to reach maturity.

One doesn't need to have a math degree to figure it takes a minimum of 5 ½ to 8 months for microfilariae to mature into an adult worm.



SO THEN WHY ARE DRUG COMPANIES RECOMMENDING MONTHLY HEARTWORM PREVENTION?

The answer to this question is simple. Drug companies recommend monthly heartworm preventive either because it doubles or triples their revenues or because they don't understand the heartworm cycle (which is highly unlikely).



A MUCH, MUCH SAFER ALTERNATIVE TO HEARTWORM DRUGS

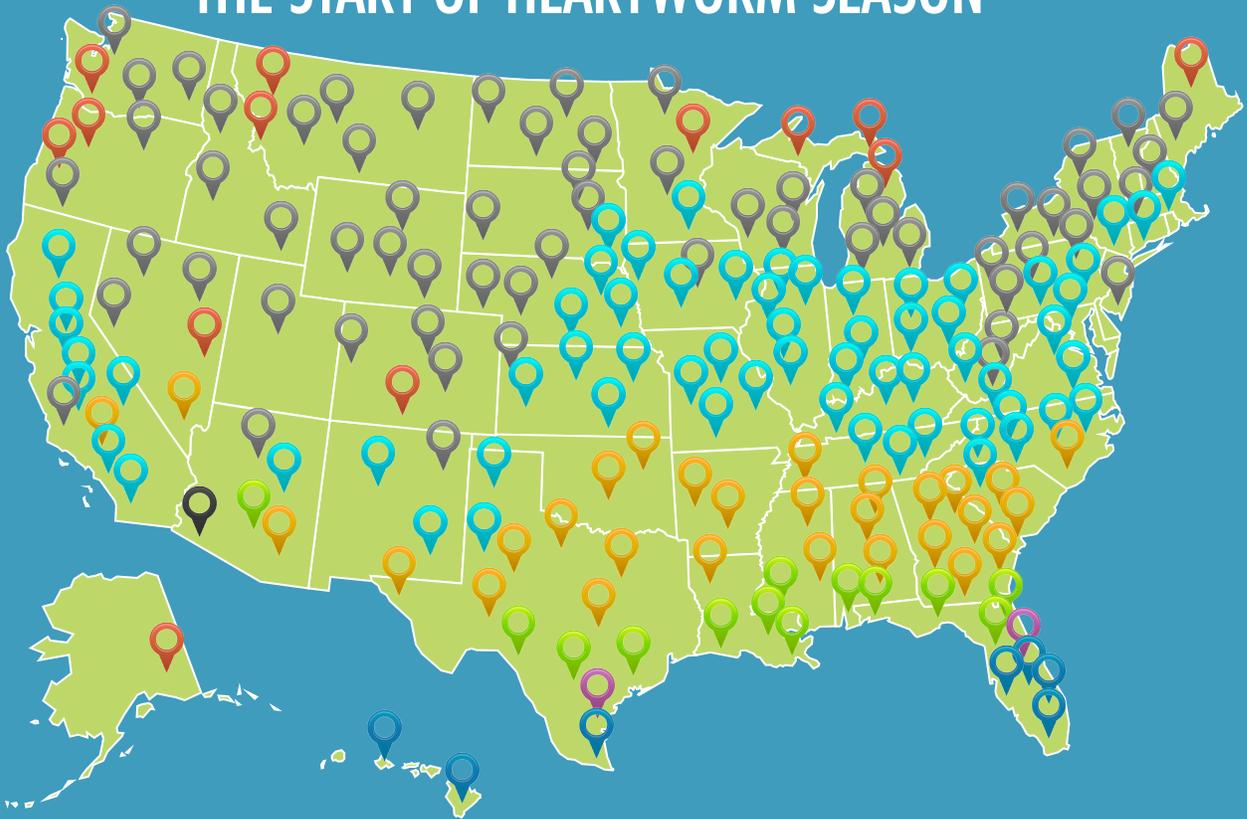
Advances in heartworm diagnostics now offer DNA testing on the basis of PCR (polymerase chain reaction) technology. This test done by Healthgene allows you screen for any presence of heartworm and is very reliable with practically no false negatives.

DNA TESTING CAN ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR HEARTWORM MEDICATION COMPLETELY

On the next page is a simple table with a suggested minimum number of DNA heartworm tests that will safely replace heartworm preventives.

But first, you need to know the start and the end of the heartworm season where you live.
Let's look at this next.

THE START OF HEARTWORM SEASON



THE END OF HEARTWORM SEASON



LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| JANUARY(1) | MARCH(3) | MAY(5) | JULY(7) | SEPTEMBER(9) | NOVEMBER(11) |
| FEBRUARY(2) | APRIL(4) | JUNE(6) | AUGUST(8) | OCTOBER(10) | DECEMBER(12) |

NEXT, ESTABLISH THE NUMBER OF TESTS NEEDED FROM THE TABLE BELOW

Now that you know the start and end of heartworm season in your area, you can calculate the duration of your heartworm season. So if you live in Chicago, heartworm season starts in June (6) and ends in November (11). That means heartworm season in Chicago is typically 5 to 6 months long.

Now let's look at the next table. This will tell you how many heartworm tests your dog would need to replace his preventives.

SEASON DURATION	NUMBER OF TESTS REQUIRED
Temperature below the required level	No tests are needed
Less than 4 months	1 test (end of heartworm season)
4 to 8 months	2 tests (middle and end of heartworm season)
8 to 12 months	3 tests (every 4 months)

HOW TO EVALUATE HEARTWORM DNA TEST RESULTS

Heartworm DNA tests can be performed in most veterinary practices by collecting a blood sample and sending it to a veterinary laboratory. Make sure that the actual DNA test is run as other tests are not as reliable and have a higher margin of error.

A negative DNA test means your dog has NO heartworm in the body and all you need to do is to retest as recommended above.



HOW TO EVALUATE HEARTWORM DNA TEST RESULTS (CONTINUED)...

A positive DNA test means your dog has been infected with heartworm. If your last test was done 4 months ago or less, your dog does not have a mature parasite in the heart and a heartworm preventive can be safely administered. However, it's strongly recommended that you work with your holistic veterinarian before any treatment or giving a heartworm preventive, just to be sure. Your veterinarian might want to run general bloodwork and consider an ultrasound first, to be safe.

CAUTION!!!

Preventive heartworm medication must not be given if your dog has missed a test. Using preventive drugs on adult heartworm can cause serious problems and a different treatment protocol must be used.

CONCLUSION...

It is possible to completely eliminate heartworm drug use if DNA testing is done on a regular basis.



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