

# Heartworm

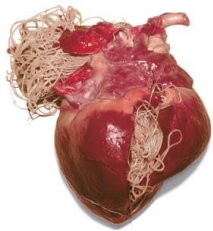


## What is Heartworm?

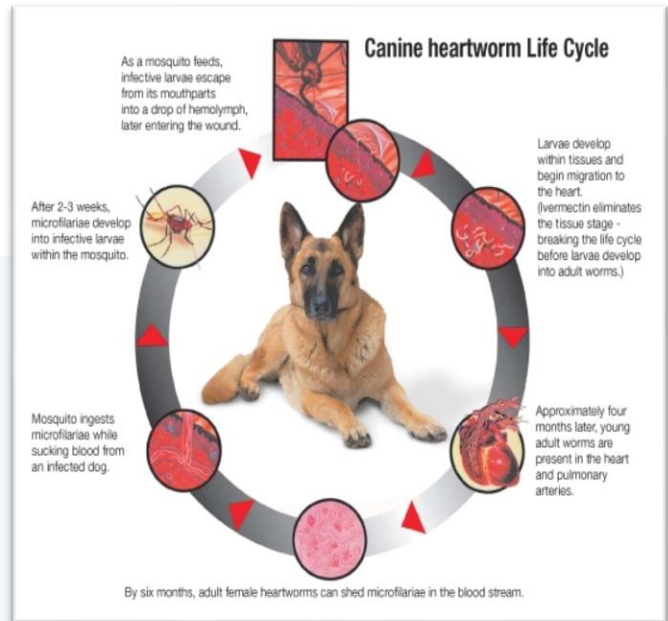
Heartworm (*D.immitus*) is a parasite affecting small animals such as dogs and cats.

Its intermediate host is the common **mosquito** which transmits the larval stage of the worm to the host species.

The larvae then travel to the large vessels of the heart where they become adults.



Heartworm infection **CAN BE FATAL** as the worms multiply and obstruct the chambers and vessels of the heart, potentially leading to **congestive heart failure**.



## So what do we do?

As with most things, **prevention** is the best medicine.



If heartworm status is unknown, in-house testing can be performed to confirm the presence of heartworm **antigen** and microscopy to look for larval stages, prior to commencing heartworm prophylaxis.

There are a number of products to prevent the heartworm cycle from monthly tablets to a once-yearly injection. Ask us today for our suggestion on what heartworm product is best for your pet.



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