Heartworm prevention is the easiest and most important thing you can do for your pet

The facts about HEARTWORM

Heartworms can only be transmitted from animal to animal by MOSQUITOES. When a mosquito bites an infected animal, it picks up the young heartworms. The mosquito can pass the worm to your pet, the next time the mosquito feeds on blood.

Inside your pet, the young worms mature into adult worms within 6 months. During this time, your pet may show no signs of illness. The worms migrate though the body and will reach the blood vessels and lungs. Heartworms damage the heart and blood vessels, resulting in severe heart and lung disease.

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<th>PREVENTION</th>
<th>DIAGNOSIS</th>
<th>TREATMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prevention:</strong> a method of preventing a disease from occurring</td>
<td><strong>Diagnosis:</strong> a method to detect disease.</td>
<td><strong>Treatment:</strong> a method of removing a disease.</td>
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<td>Before starting a preventative treatment, have your pet tested for heartworm.</td>
<td>A veterinarian is the only person qualified to give a proper diagnosis</td>
<td><strong>DOGS:</strong> There is high risks associated with heartworm treatments. Treatment requires multiple arsenic based injections over a 4 to 6 month period</td>
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<td>Heartworm can be prevented in cats and dogs using one of the following:</td>
<td>When a pet becomes infected, it may show no signs of illness until the worms mature.</td>
<td><strong>CATS:</strong> There is no approved method of treatment for heartworm in cats. Surgical removal is high risk and reserved for severe cases.</td>
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<td>- Monthly tablets, ointments, or a six-month injectable</td>
<td>Symptoms may include coughing, fatigue, loss of appetite, and difficulty breathing.</td>
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<td>All treatments are effective when used properly</td>
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Dogs and cats get heartworm from mosquitoes
What is the Risk in New Jersey

- Heartworms are a potential threat in every state in the U.S.
- Every year in New Jersey, the average veterinary clinic reports 6 to 25 cases of heartworm (that is roughly 12,000 cases a year in the state of New Jersey alone!)
- All dogs, regardless of age, sex, or living environment are susceptible to heartworm infection.
- Indoor and outdoor cats are also at risk for the disease.

Prevent Heartworm

Monmouth County Mosquito Commission
PO Box 162
Eatontown, NJ 07724
Phone: 732-542-3630
http://www.visitmonmouth.com/mosquito

Information obtained from the American Heartworm society
Brochure developed by the Center for Vector Biology at Rutgers University, Monmouth County Mosquito Commission, and Mercer County Mosquito Control

Prevention is easy and 100% effective
Treatment is expensive and deadly

Choose prevention