

**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 through the body and will reach the blood vessels and lungs. Heartworms damage the heart and blood vessels, resulting in severe heart and lung disease.



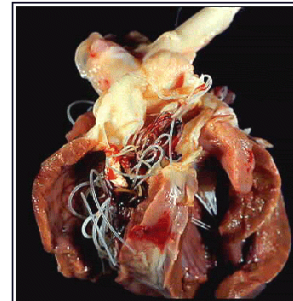
Dogs and cats get heartworm from mosquitoes

## PREVENTION

- **Prevention**: a method of preventing a disease from occurring
- Before starting a preventative treatment, have your pet tested for heartworm.
- Heartworm can be prevented in cats and dogs using one of the following:
  - Monthly tablets, ointments, or a six-month injectable
- All treatments are effective when used properly

## DIAGNOSIS

- **Diagnosis**: a method to detect disease.
- A veterinarian is the only person qualified to give a proper diagnosis
- When a pet becomes infected, it may show no signs of illness until the worms mature.
- Symptoms may include coughing, fatigue, loss of appetite, and difficulty breathing.



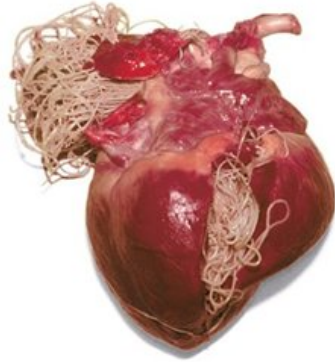
## TREATMENT

- **Treatment**: a method of removing a disease.
- **DOGS**: There is high risks associated with heartworm treatments. Treatment requires multiple arsenic based injections over a 4 to 6 month period
- **CATS**: There is no approved method of treatment for heartworm in cats. Surgical removal is high risk and reserved for severe cases.



# 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

## PREVENT HEARTWORM



PREVENTION IS EASY AND 100% EFFECTIVE

TREATMENT IS EXPENSIVE AND DEADLY



## Heartworm

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

**Choose prevention**

