Did you know?

- **Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes** — if there are mosquitoes in your area, your cat is at risk!
- **Wildlife in your area can be a source of infection.** Mosquitoes that bite an infected dog, fox, wolf, or coyote can then transmit the infection to unprotected cats.
- **Even cats that look healthy can be infected with heartworms.** Annual examination and testing when warranted can avoid delays in detection and therapy, as heartworms can cause significant damage to your cat’s heart and lungs.
- **Heartworm preventive medications are very effective** when given properly on the prescribed schedule.
- **The best way to reduce the risk of heartworm infection in your cat is to give the preventive medication year-round.** Mosquitoes can survive 12 months a year, even indoors and in parts of the country where there is a cold winter. All cats are at risk, even those that do not go outside.
- **There is no cure for heartworm disease in cats.** While medical management of clinical signs is possible, some infected cats die without warning. Prevention is always safer and more affordable than managing complications from chronic diseases caused by heartworms.

Heartworm disease is found in all 50 states.

The cornerstone of heartworm management is prevention. The American Heartworm Society recommends year-round administration of a heartworm preventive medication in dogs, cats, and ferrets and annual testing for heartworm disease for all dogs.

Heartworm Incidence 2016

The severity of heartworm incidence as shown in this map is based on the average number of cases per reporting clinic. Some remote regions of the United States lack veterinary clinics, therefore we have no reported cases from these areas.

To learn more about the increasing threat of heartworm disease, talk to your veterinarian and visit the American Heartworm Society website at [www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org).

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What if my cat is diagnosed with heartworm disease?

Unfortunately, no medications exist for the safe treatment of adult heartworms in cats. In some circumstances, surgical removal of heartworms has been successful; however, this surgical procedure is difficult and risky.

The best option is the routine use of heartworm preventives to inhibit development of infection. Many cats that develop HARD can be successfully managed with medications to reduce inflammation and minimize clinical signs of disease. The American Heartworm Society recommends that cats diagnosed with heartworms have blood tests conducted every 6 to 12 months to monitor infection status.

Will you take the cat back or pay for treatment of heartworm disease?

We are grateful to you for partnering with us to save this cat’s life! As much as we would like to treat our shelter animals for all of their conditions, we simply cannot afford to do so. Please speak to a member of our staff for information on our post-adoption medical expense policies.

The veterinarians listed below understand the reasons for our testing policy and are happy to see recently adopted cats.

Please make an appointment today.