



Heartworm Prevention Year Round

All puppies should start heartworm prevention at 8 weeks old and continue monthly for their entire life. It takes at least 6 months for a dog to test positive after being infected. With this being said, it is important to retest again in 6 months and then again annually if prevention has been given every month.

There are many different types of heartworm preventions available from your veterinarian. All heartworm preventions do require a prescription. When your puppy is growing your veterinarian will recommend purchasing preventions one month at a time, you will most likely need the next size up the following month. Depending on the breed of your puppy, you may be able to purchase it for multiple months.

Testing your dog for heartworms annually is required by most veterinarians and also the American Heartworm Society. This test will ensure that the preventative medication has not failed, and your dog is negative. Should your dog test positive for heartworm and has been consistently taking his/her heartworm prevention every month; preventions have been purchased through your veterinarian and not a third-party online pharmacy, the manufacturer will help you with medical costs. If you do purchase preventions online by a third-party pharmacy the manufacturer will NOT compensate you for treatment.

Heartworm treatment is very costly for pet parents and very painful for dogs. They do have to go through a series of painful injections and also strict cage rest and only leashed walked at a slow pace for 3 to 4 weeks at a time during each treatment. This treatment is very high risk so we would rather see all dogs on prevention instead of going through this treatment. The cost for treatment in dogs that are >80lbs is about \$2700.00 and the cost of 12 months of prevention for a dog that is >80lbs is about \$390.00. Huge difference and you will also be protecting your dog against intestinal parasites, fleas, and ticks. Monthly Prevention is a win for everyone.

Ask your veterinarian what the best prevention for your dog is. We will be happy to help.