

# What You Should Know About Heartworm Disease

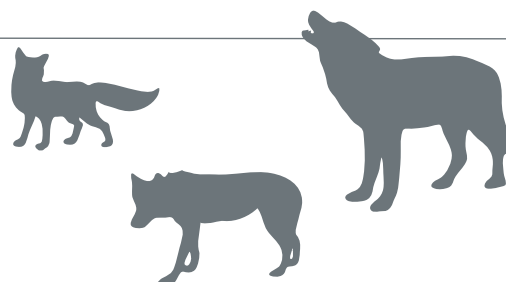


## A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS, HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS DISEASE



### JUST ONE BITE

Transmitted by mosquitoes from an infected coyote, dog, fox or wolf. Just one bite from an infected mosquito can infect a dog, cat or ferret.



#### Symptoms in dogs include:

- Mild, persistent cough
- Fatigue
- Reluctance to exercise
- Decreased appetite
- Weight loss



#### Symptoms in cats include:

- Coughing
- Asthma-like attacks
- Occasional vomiting
- Weight loss

### HEARTWORM TESTING

Dogs should be tested annually to assure that they have not been infected. Cats should be tested prior to beginning heartworm preventative medication.

### TREATMENT

There is **no treatment for cats** with heartworm disease. **Treatment for dogs is difficult and expensive.**

### PREVENTION

Heartworm prevention medication requires a prescription and should be given under the guidance of your veterinarian. Your veterinarian can determine which heartworm preventative is best for your pet **based on its age, health and lifestyle**. Heartworm prevention medication is relatively inexpensive and easy to administer. Heartworm disease is costly and difficult to treat.

