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.