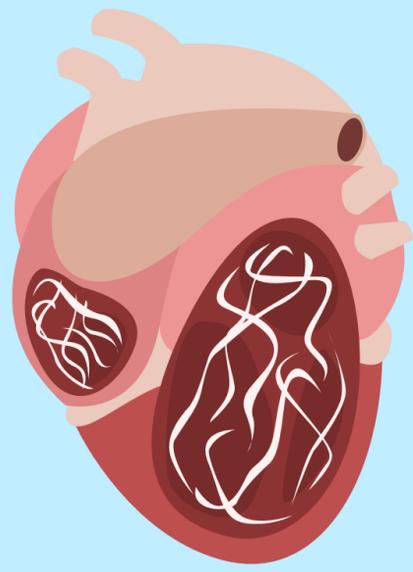


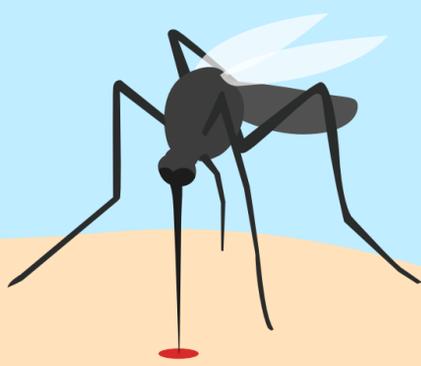
It's Heartworm Awareness Month!

Pet Shed Says NO to Heartworms!



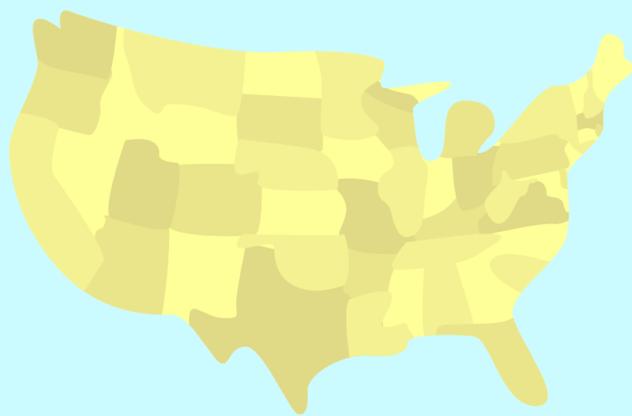
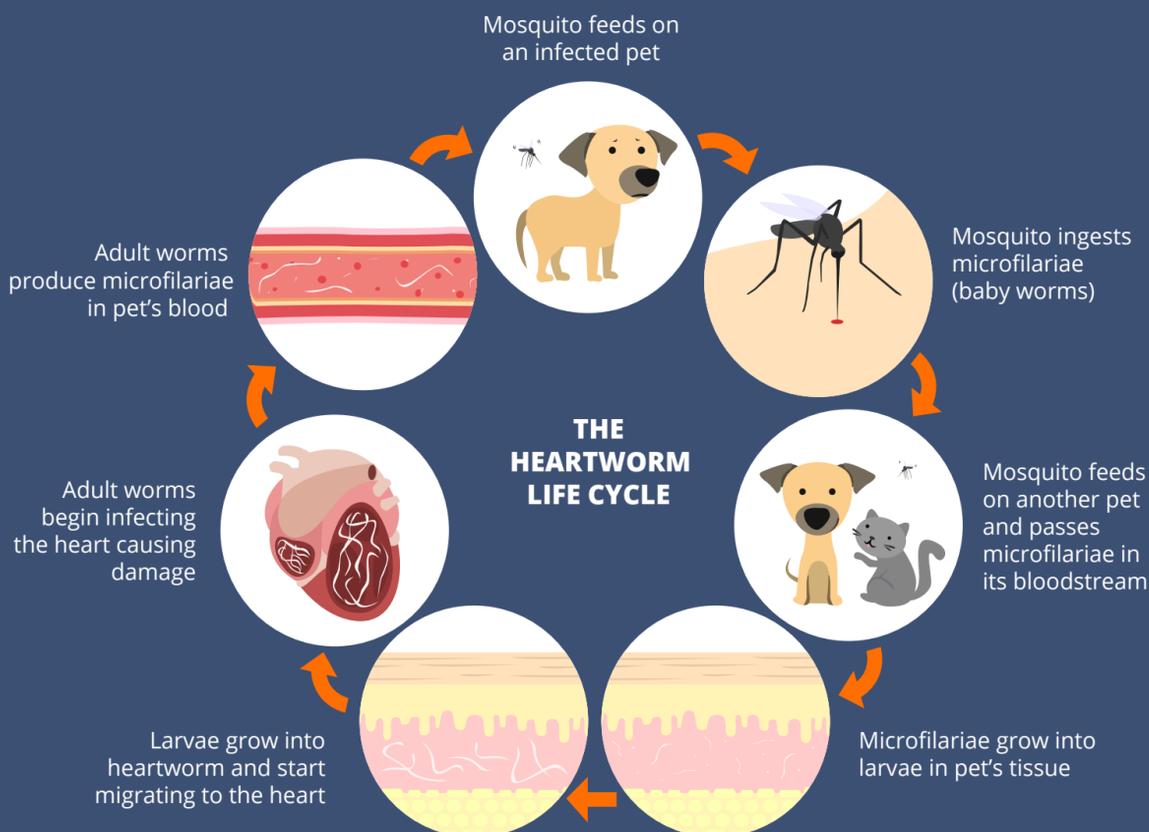
Heartworms

Heartworms are foot-long worms that live in the heart, lungs, or blood vessels of pets. It's the very cause of heartworm disease in pets which causes a severe lung disease, heart failure or even damage to other organs in their body. It can infect dogs, cats, and other animals. It's known as a silent killer, especially for dogs and cats.



One bite is all it takes!

Heartworms can only be passed down to your pet by a mosquito bite. There's no way of knowing if the mosquito is heartworm infected that's why your pets need protection.



KNOW THE FACTS

Heartworm disease is a big deal and has become a nationwide problem more particularly in Southeastern States.

Heartworm in Cats



Heartworms can live up to 2 years in cats.

Cats are atypical hosts for heartworms and most worms don't survive until the adult stage in cats though some can have just 2 or 3 adult worms.

Only one or two heartworms can be fatal to cats.

Though it's rare for cats to be diagnosed with a heartworm disease, cats can still have Heartworm Associated Respiratory Disease (HARD) caused by immature worms.

Symptoms for Cats

- Coughing
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Wheezing

As heartworms mature, signs may be severe and include blindness, confusion, palpitations, and seizures.

Sudden death may occur in some cats due to a reaction within the lungs to the young heartworms or obstructed blood flow to the lungs.



Heartworm in Dogs



Heartworms can live up to 7 years in dogs.

Dogs are natural hosts for heartworms so worms can grow into adults in dogs.

The longer your pet is infected, the more severe the symptoms become.

Though it is not clear how many pets are infected with a heartworm disease each year, a study by the American Heartworm Society (AHS) estimates that more than 1 million dogs were heartworm-positive in 2016.

Symptoms for Dogs

- Decreased appetite
- Difficulty breathing
- Fainting
- Fatigue after moderate activity
- Lethargy
- Mild or persistent coughing
- Weight loss

Severe cases can cause blockage of blood flow in the heart which can make the disease life-threatening requiring immediate surgery.



Prevention is always better than cure

Prevention is cheap and easy, but the cure can be quite a problem. Treating heartworm on pets often is expensive and complex.

There are many monthly pills or topicals you can use for your pet for a fair price. Some meds also go with worm preventives while others can prevent other parasites such as worms, fleas, and ticks altogether.

Remember to visit your vet to get your pet heartworm-tested once or twice a year before giving them heartworm preventives.



Sources:

1. <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources/heartworm-prevention-for-dogs>
2. <http://www.pethealth.com.au/index.cfm?Do=View.Page&PageID=38>
3. <https://www.spca.org.hk/en/veterinary/preventative-pet-health/heartworm-prevention>
4. <https://pets.webmd.com/dogs/guide/heartworms-in-dogs-facts-and-myths#1>
5. <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources/heartworm-basics>
6. <https://www.americanveterinarian.com/news/the-educated-client-understanding-and-preventing-heartworm-disease>