



Heartworms: What Every Pet Owner Should Know

Find helpful guides, tips, and more for your pets



Donate



Volunteer



Foster



Available



Heartworms are a serious and potentially fatal disease that affect pets across the U.S. Learn how your pet can contract heartworms - and most importantly, how to prevent them.

[Return to all Resources](#)

How Does My Pet Get Heartworms?

- **Transmission by Mosquitoes:** Pets become infected when bitten by a mosquito carrying heartworm larvae. These larvae enter the pet's bloodstream and eventually mature into adult worms.
- **Not Contagious Between Pets:** Heartworms can't be spread through casual contact, food, or water-only through mosquito bites.
- **Dogs at Higher Risk:** While cats and ferrets can also get heartworms, dogs are the natural host and are more likely to suffer serious symptoms if untreated.

What Can I Do to Prevent It?

- **Monthly Preventatives:** The easiest and most effective method is monthly heartworm prevention medication (oral, topical, or injectable).
- **Routine Testing:** Even if your dog is on prevention, yearly heartworm testing is essential to ensure no breakthrough infections.
- **Control Mosquitoes:** Reduce your pet's exposure by keeping them indoors during peak mosquito times and eliminating standing water around your home.
- **Never Skip Doses:** A single missed month can leave your pet vulnerable. Set reminders or use apps to stay on track!

What Are the Signs of Heartworm Disease?

- Coughing
- Fatigue after moderate activity
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Swollen abdomen (advanced stages)

**"Heartworm prevention is simple.
Heartworm treatment is hard. Protect your
pet."**

— American Heartworm Society

Related Resources



The True Cost Of Pet Ownership

[Read More](#)



Prepare Your Pets For Warmer Weather

[Read More](#)

Quick Links

[Home](#)

[Adopt](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Foster](#)

[Donate](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Search Animals](#)




Contact

[Get In Touch](#)

Phone: [\(903\) 871-7092](#)

Location: Tyler, Texas

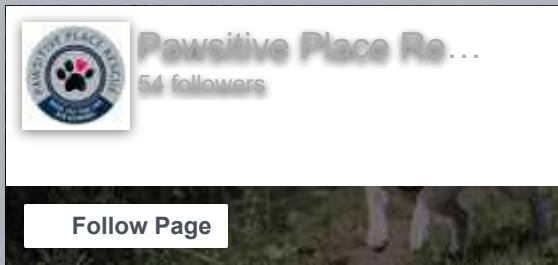
About Us

 We are a Texas Domestic Nonprofit & IRS 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Charity - Donors can deduct contributions they make!

Support Us




Follow Us



© 2025 Pawsitive Place Rescue. All Rights Reserved.

Custom Coded and Domain by [Tierra Hosting](#)

 Member of [Animal Allies of East Texas](#)