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One Bite Is All It Takes...

Heartworm Disease Is A Serious Health Concern

Heartworm infection in animals is a serious health threat that can ultimately result in heart failure and death. **One bite** from a mosquito can transmit heartworms to your pet.

The most recent data shows numerous heartworm cases have been reported throughout California



- Heartworm is carried by mosquitoes.
- Mosquitoes and heartworm disease are found in all 50 states.
- A mosquito becomes infected when it bites an infected animal. Then the mosquito bites and infects an uninfected animal.
- Pets that do not receive consistent monthly preventative measures for heartworm disease may only live two to five years after being infected.
- Keeping your pet inside will not guarantee that it will not get heartworm disease. Mosquitoes can and do get inside the house.

Medications used to prevent heartworm infection are called preventives. Preventives kill the heartworm larvae before they have a chance to grow into adult heartworms. A number of heartworm preventives are available to pet owners today. Some heartworm preventives contain additional ingredients that will control other parasites, such as roundworms, hookworms. A monthly preventive should be given to all pets. Remember that mosquitoes can get indoors, so even though your pet may not go outside, he is still susceptible.

For Dogs - Trifexis™



Sierra Veterinary Clinic recommends Trifexis™ for dogs – the next-generation parasite prevention tablet with these exceptional client and pet advantages –

- This once-monthly chewable tablet prevents heartworm disease and treats and controls fleas, hookworms, roundworms and whipworms.
- Trifexis starts killing fleas within 30 minutes of application.
- Because it cannot be washed away, the tablet is an ideal choice for dogs that swim or are bathed frequently. No topical solution means no messy application to your pet and no stains on cloths, carpet or furniture.
- Green chemistry** – Spinosad was awarded a Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award by the EPA, demonstrating a favorable environmental profile.

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For Cats – Revolution®



Revolution is an FDA-approved, topically applied medication for cats that: Kills adult fleas (*Ctenocephalides felis*) and prevents flea eggs from hatching. Prevents heartworm disease caused by *Dirofilaria immitis*. Treats and controls ear mites (*Otodectes cynotis*). Treats and controls roundworms (*Toxocara cati*) and hookworms (*Ancylostoma tubaeforme*).

Pet Internet Pharmacies

Online Pet Pharmacies – Protect Yourself and Your Pet

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urges pet owners who shop for prescription pet medicines online to make sure they remain aware of exactly what they are buying.

You've seen TV advertisements for Internet pet pharmacies –

"Affordable pet prescriptions!"

"Pet meds at discount prices!"

"No prescription required!"

"Your best source for pet meds!"

Some of these pharmacies promote the convenience of home shopping with the benefit of big savings but are they a wise option for you and your pet?

Internet sites that sell pet drugs can be reputable pharmacies. However, others are fronts for businesses breaking Federal, State and sometimes International law. **Illegal online pharmacies may sell medicines that are counterfeit, outdated, mislabeled, incorrectly formulated, or improperly made or stored.** You are always welcome to call our office to discuss any questions you may have with veterinary online pharmacies.

Please ask us regarding our requirements for working with a Pet Internet Pharmacy along with the important benefits our pharmacy offers to you and your pet.

Keeping your pet healthy and happy is important. From routine to advanced optimal care, our veterinary practice is proud to offer the very best in veterinary medicine.

For additional information from the FDA you can visit the following website:

www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ResourcesforYou/AnimalHealthLiteracy/ucm203000.htm © 2014



Why Our Hospital Pharmacy Is Your Best Choice –

PRICE

Internet Pharmacies are not always the cheapest source for medication. Our price for most items is typically less than most Internet Pharmacies would charge. In addition, some medications are temperature sensitive and require next day or 2nd day air delivery, which adds to the cost. Prescriptions sometimes need a signature on delivery, so you need be home to receive the shipment.

REBATES

Our veterinary practice also passes on manufacturers' promotions and/or rebates and these frequently result in greater savings. These rebates are not usually available from online stores or catalogs.

CONVENIENCE

Using an Internet pharmacy means a delay in getting your medication. It typically takes 1-2 days for the online pharmacy to contact us and process the prescription, then there's a 2-5 day shipping time.

SAFETY

Any prescription medication purchased from our hospital has been inspected and approved by the FDA, and manufactured and packaged according to U.S. government regulations. Medications available online may have been purchased outside the United States and have different strengths and labeling than U.S. products. Sometimes you can tell by checking the label. If approved by the FDA, it should say, "Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to be used by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian". Do not use products that do not have this warning or if the label has been removed.

GUARANTEE

Pharmaceutical manufacturers will only honor product guarantees when the medications are prescribed by and purchased from the pet's veterinarian. Internet and mail-order catalogs, do not qualify for these guarantees.

INSURANCE

Pet Insurance companies require that all prescriptions be FDA approved. If you have pet health insurance you may be reimbursed on medications when purchased from a legal online pharmacy. You will be required to provide a copy of your veterinarian's prescription order and a copy of the Internet pharmacy's invoice. When you purchase a prescription from our hospital there is no additional paperwork. Your hospital office call along with any prescription is all itemized on one invoice for easy submission to your insurance company.

EDUCATION

Every week representatives from companies like Bayer, Pfizer, Novartis, Merial, and others visit our office. These representatives have access to the latest data and research, and are a valuable source of up-to-the-minute information. In addition, our staff regularly attends veterinary conferences and reads the latest veterinary medical journals and research papers. We stay up-to-date on the latest disease trends in our region and stay abreast of recent advances in veterinary medicine. However, our first source of information about products and treatment protocols are the pharmaceutical representatives. Because we offer a full-service dispensing pharmacy on site, these folks make a point of visiting our hospital frequently.



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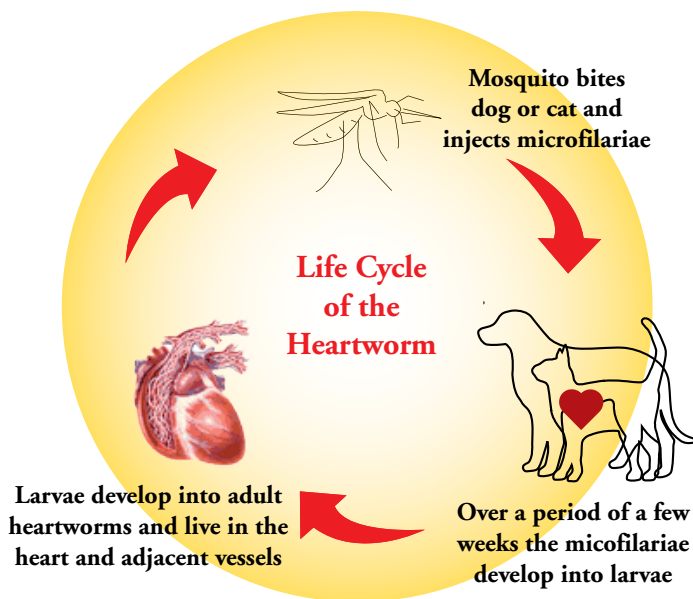
Heartworm infection in animals is a serious health threat that can ultimately result in heart failure and death. One bite from a mosquito can transmit heartworms to your pet. Dogs are the most common victims, but cats, ferrets and other animals are susceptible. Treatment is available for dogs, although it is expensive and may cause complications. Currently, there is no effective heartworm disease treatment for cats. But the affliction can be prevented.

It takes several months for the larvae to mature and move into the heart and other organs.

What are the symptoms of heartworm infection?

Unfortunately, symptoms are not seen during the early stages of the disease and it can take up to a year for any signs of infection. Once the disease is advanced, the pet displays chronic coughing, weight loss and decreased appetite. Pets will lack energy, tire easily and may collapse from heart failure after playing or exercising. A blood test is available to determine if your pet is infected.

Preventive treatment for heartworm disease, before it advances to the point of seriously jeopardizing your pet's health, is simple and usually 100% effective. Following a blood test to determine if your pet is infected, a once-a-month medication may be administered that destroys any immature heartworms that exist in your pet's bloodstream.



Heartworms are slender white worms that can grow to as much as 14 inches in length. They obstruct blood vessels, restrict heart valve function, and can also cause extensive damage to the lungs, liver and kidneys. Mosquitoes transmit the microscopic larvae of heartworms between animals through the exchange of blood.

The environment you live in and the existence of mosquitoes can be a critical factor in your pet's exposure to heartworm disease. That's why it's important to consult with your veterinarian about your pet's susceptibility to this potentially fatal disease.

NEW
Trifexis
(spinosad + milbemycin oxime)