



# Heartworm Resource Guide

## *What are Heartworms?*

Heartworms are a parasitic roundworm that target and affect the heart and lungs of mostly dog/canid species.

## *Where are they found?*

HW disease and Heartworms disease are very widespread throughout the U.S., and it has been found in all 50 states, but it is seen more here in the southern states due to our climate (heat and humidity).

## *How is it transmitted?*

1. Mosquitos are the main vector (carrier) for microfilaria, the baby stage, of the heartworm.
2. Further, a mosquito feeds on an infected animal and picks up the microfilaria or "baby heartworms" in the blood. Then those "baby heartworms" are transferred to another dog when the mosquito bites them. It takes 6-7 months for the microfilaria to grow into an adult heartworm inside the dog.
3. Additionally, adult heartworms can live for up to 5-7 years in a dog. Dogs can also be re-infected even if they already have heartworms, adding more heartworm load in the body if they are not treated and kept on prevention such as ProHeart.



## *How does the medicine work?*

1. Doxycycline- Treats secondary infections and also makes the adult worms sterile
2. Melarsomine-The medicine that contains a trace amount of arsenic, this will kill the adult worms, allowing bits to break into the bloodstream to be reabsorbed. When heart/activity rate is too high, more bits of the worms will enter the bloodstream than can absorb in time. This can lead to issues such as blood clots, pulmonary embolism, heart attack/stroke, etc.
3. ProHeart- 6–12-month preventative to keep your pet safe from reinfection

## *What follow up care is needed?*

1. Crate Rest is necessary the first 4-6 weeks after an injection (each inj.). Walking and yard play should be done on leash. No rough play with others pets in home. If your pet is a calm or a couch potato, you can allow them to be outside of cage as long as supervised. Lick mats, puzzle feeders, and pupsicles are great mental stimulators to keep your pup engaged during their crate resting period.
2. We only perform a heartworm therapy here. Your vet may want to continue on with the normal heartworm treatment protocol which consists of an additional 2 injections after the 30 day "crate rest" period. You as the adopter have the choice on whether to continue the treatment with your own vet at your own cost or your other option is to wait 6 months.
3. At this time, we do not offer financial support for the additional injections, but we can help provide some low-cost resources for you if you need them.

## *How much does heartworm treatment cost?*

HW treatment can vary depending on the level of infection, age of your pet, and protocol that the organization or veterinarian lays out for you. Ranges can be between \$200-\$2500/injection.



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## *Additional Resources*

### Texas Foundation for Animal Care

Traditional Heartworm Treatment

Includes HW test, Prednisone, Doxycycline & 3 Immiticide Injections \*Monthly prevention must be purchased separately

**\*\*\$25 BOOKING DEPOSIT\*\***

A non-refundable \$25 booking deposit is required when you book a heartworm consultation appointment. This will go towards the cost of the visit when the pet comes in for the visit.

0 - 19 lbs – \$350	60 - 79 lbs – \$500
20 - 39 lbs – \$400	80 - 99 lbs – \$600
40 - 59 lbs – \$450	100 - 130 lbs – \$650

### Thrive Clinic (All Locations)

\$112 – Exam

\$1500 - \$2500/ injection (determined by weight)

### Modern Animal

\$75/ Exam (Pay-as-you-go)

\$89/year (Standard) – gives you access to 1 exam/year & 24/7 Telehealth access

\$169/year (All Access) – Gives you access to unlimited exams & 24/7 Telehealth access

### Texas Humane Heroes – Leander, TX

SIZE	TOTAL PRICE	1 <sup>ST</sup> PAYMENT	2 <sup>ND</sup> PAYMENT
2 - 20 LBS	\$225	\$75	\$150
21 - 40 LBS	\$325	\$150	\$175
41 - 60 LBS	\$425	\$200	\$225
61 - 80 LBS	\$495	\$225	\$270
81 - 100 LBS	\$495	\$225	\$270
100+ LBS	\$495	\$225	\$270