

YEAR-ROUND HEARTWORM PREVENTION REASONS WHY?



Heartworm disease is a horrible yet preventable disease. Treatment is a poor alternative to prevention. During treatment in dogs, the worms die, are driven further into the lungs, and slowly decay. Although this disease is completely preventable, about 500,000 dogs are treated for it each year in the United States. The original preventive products were given daily, and when recommendations were first made, seasonal treatment in “nonendemic areas” was recommended at that time, possibly because of the inconvenience of giving a daily medication when the risk of transmission was low. With the current products, monthly dosing is recommended and there is no reason not to give preventive treatment year-round. Because these products were to be used monthly for the entire life of the pet, the Food and Drug Administration required testing that surpasses that for products designed for single treatment. During the approval process, the products were given to dogs throughout pregnancy (to make sure there was no risk to mother or puppies) and to breeding males (to make sure there were no detrimental effects to sperm numbers, motility or viability). Non-adherence with the preventive treatment is a real problem, perhaps in part because of confusion about the start and stop dates. Mosquitoes do not always sleep all winter, and it is difficult to predict when they will first appear in the spring. Despite the excellent preventive treatments available, heartworm disease has spread to all 50 states. We should be recommending year-round heartworm preventive treatment everywhere in the United States.

The 2005 American Heartworm Society guidelines recommend starting puppies on preventive treatment at 8 weeks of age. Although they recognize that transmission is seasonal in some parts of the country, they also recognize that lapses in chemoprophylaxis entail considerable risk and that, at least in some cases, adherence may be enhanced by year-round treatment. Because the disease is so devastating and prevention is so safe, year-round preventative is a good idea.

--The Editors

Why heartworm prevention should be given year-round everywhere. Bowman DD. PROC NAVC 2007, P 980



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HEARTWORM SPECIAL



Your pet will be getting a **Health Exam** and **Heartworm** test today. We recommend an Annual Blood Panel along with the heartworm test this year. When the heartworm test and blood panel are combined, we can offer a reduced fee. These blood tests will give us valuable information concerning the current health status of your pet. The results will enable us to compare and/or establish values to monitor as your pet ages and will be part of your pet's permanent record.

BLOOD CHEMISTRY TESTS

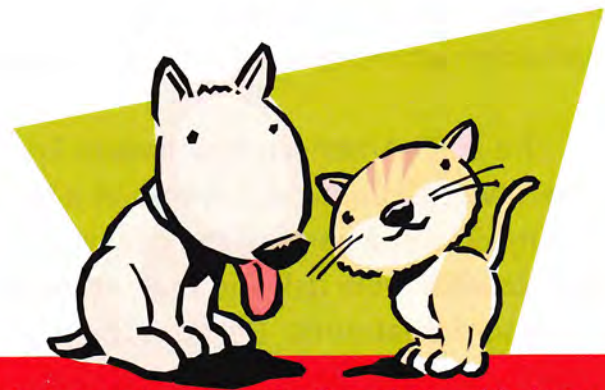
Provide an Inside Look at Your Pet's Vital Organs

- * **Alanine Amino Transferase (ALT):**
An enzyme that becomes elevated with liver disease.
- * **Alkaline Phosphatase (ALKP):**
An enzyme produced by the liver. Elevated levels can indicate liver disease or Cushing's Syndrome.
- * **Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN):**
BUN is produced by the liver and excreted by the kidneys. Testing for it helps to detect liver and kidney abnormalities.
- * **Cholesterol:**
Elevated levels of cholesterol are seen in a variety of disorders including: Hypothyroidism and diseases of the liver or kidneys.
- * **Creatinine (CREA):**
Creatinine is a by-product of muscle metabolism and is excreted by the kidneys. Elevated levels can indicate kidney disease or urinary obstruction.
- * **Blood Glucose (GLU):** High levels can help diagnose diabetes and can indicate stress—especially in cats. Low levels can indicate liver disease.
- * **Total Protein (TP):** The level of TP can suggest a variety of conditions including: dehydration and diseases of the liver, kidney or gastrointestinal tract.

HEMATOLOGY TESTS

Provide an Inside Look at the Blood Itself

- * **Packed Cell Volume (PCV):**
Provides information on the amount of red blood cells (RBCs) present in the blood. This test is used to diagnose anemia.
- * **Complete Blood Count (CBC):**
A more complete panel of tests, a CBC, provides detailed information of RBCs, WBCs and platelets. These tests can indicate the presence of inflammation, stress or an inability to fight infection. Low platelets can indicate a potentially serious problem such as internal bleeding or destruction of platelets by the immune system.



The blood test results are not only interpreted individually but more importantly, the relationship between the various test results tells the Veterinarian about your pet as a whole. These are screening tests and may show the need to perform more specific tests to further define any abnormal results.

The fee for this blood test is reduced when done with a Heartworm test.



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