# HEARTWORM

## Prevention = 100% Protection

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*Illustration by Jan Maxwell*

Another dog surrendered with heartworm...

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1 Do we know his age?

2 To the best of our knowledge he's seven.

3 Unfortunately, his age and having heartworm disease will make it harder for him to be adopted. We'll do everything we can to help find him a new home.

4 It's so sad. The family did not want to give up their pet, but they could not afford the treatment.

5 It is very sad, too, for the dog. He doesn't understand why he no longer is with his family.

6 Preventing heartworm disease is so easy. Just one relatively inexpensive monthly pill or tab provides 100% protection. Treating heartworm can be costly in money and time. Plus treatment is painful for the dog.

WCAC

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1
Why is preventing heartworm disease so important?
2
Untreated heartworms kill our pets. Treatment is not a a quick fix and it is painful. Treatment lasts at least 60 days and consists of hospital stays, being crated, receiving multiple drug injections into the dog's back and hip muscles. The treatments are expensive, too.
WCAC
3
Preventing heartworm disease is easier on everyone. Plus, it is cheaper. Pets should always be examined for heartworm at their annual veterinary check-up.
WCAC
WCAC

1 What causes heartworm disease?

2 Heartworm is caused by mosquitos. North Carolina has a very high mosquito population due to mild temperatures and lots of bodies of water. Heartworm can be a year-round problem. Since mosquitos can get inside the house, it is best to treat heartworm all year.

3 Can cats get heartworm disease?

4 Yes! Cats, ferrets and other animals are also susceptible. This disease is difficult to detect in cats.

5 Mosquitos! Yikes! I sure hope folks learn to prevent this disease and to protect their pets. This will keep more pets together with their families. I know I'll talk with my vet to become the best companion I can be and protect my pets!

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