



Heartworm Prevention

Recommendations for heartworm prevention has changed recently to now have all dogs use heartworm preventative monthly year round. This change is to better protect dogs from heartworm disease, roundworms and hookworms regardless of where they live.

Benefits of year round protection over seasonal use:

- Uninterrupted protection your dog against heartworm disease if we have an unusually warm spring or fall and if you travel to a warmer client.
- There will be less chance of forgetting to restart preventative in the spring.
- Heartworm testing can be done every other year instead of every year.
- Protects your dog against roundworms and hookworms all year. These parasite eggs can withstand extreme temperatures and can be present all year.

Facts about intestinal parasites (including roundworm and hookworm infections)

- Our clinic reported an average of 1 out of every 10 pets tested was positive for parasite infection.
- Roundworms and Hookworms are considered zoonotic diseases. This means they can be transmitted to people with children being especially vulnerable.
- Roundworm eggs are usually transmitted by chance ingestion from contaminated soil, plants or other objects.
- Hookworm larvae can penetrate the skin.
- Less parasites in our pets means less eggs and larvae in the environment.

What to do if you are interested in year round prevention.

- Let us know. We can make sure you have enough prevention to get you through the year. We can also arrange for a phone call to remind you when it's time to pick up more.
- If you need additional reminders, the makers of Heartgard heartworm preventative offer free monthly e-mail reminders. Sign up at www.heartgard.com

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