

The Danger Mosquitoes Present for Your Pet

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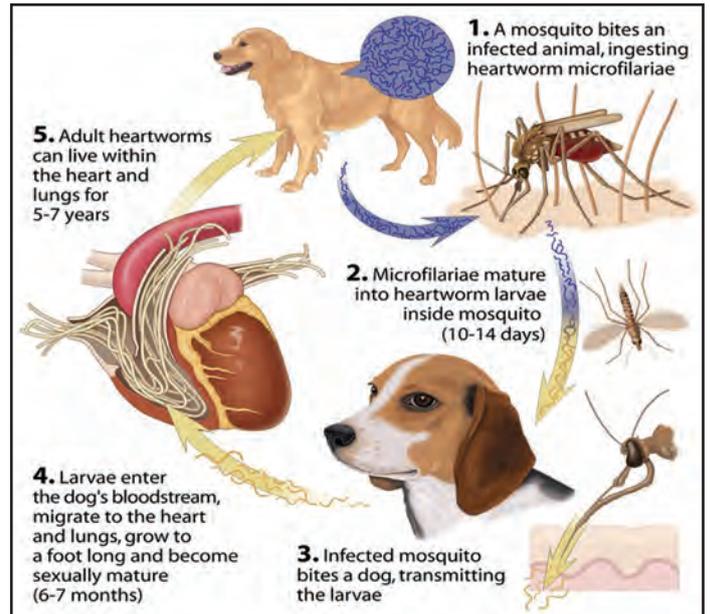
Your pet may be in serious danger from a common threat many cats and dogs face, a disease known as heartworm. Heartworm is very dangerous to both cats and dogs, and it is commonly carried by a familiar backyard pest: mosquitoes. Almost all dogs bitten by an infected mosquito will contract the disease, so veterinarians urge all pet owners to administer preventative supplements, especially if an animal is outside a lot and exposed to mosquitoes.

What is Heartworm?

Heartworm is a very serious illness. The worms can be seen by the naked eye if looked at directly. They are very long and can cause a number of health complications for your pet. Female heartworms release their young in an animal's bloodstream. When mosquitoes bite an infected animal, they pass on the contaminated blood and the disease to the next victim.

Within six months the larvae will mature into gruesome looking long white adults which can live for up to seven years in dogs. These worms cannot act alone; mosquitoes are the number one means by which heartworms are spread in domestic animals.

Heartworm can be detected through an ultrasound, x-ray images or blood tests. Tests are performed on animals known to have the disease, so it is best to remain diligent with monthly preventatives.



Prevention Recommendations

Outdoor water bowls are very tempting to mosquitoes, which love stagnant water. Often they will lay their eggs in bowls left out too long, so be sure to change outdoor dishes periodically. Ditches and other natural elements where mosquitoes will thrive should be avoided if possible. It is also a good idea to keep your pets inside, especially at times when mosquitoes are most active and pets are more likely to get bitten.

You owe it to your pets to ensure they don't suffer from this terrible illness. Taking preventative measures will save you from having to deal with the hassle and worry of your pet suffering from heartworm and the financial responsibility of costly treatments. Using heartworm prevention products can save your cat or dog from cardiovascular problems, ensuring they stay healthy and happy.

Mosquitoes are dangerous, disease-carrying insects that can cause harm to both you and your pet so it is imperative that you protect both yourself and your furry friends from the illnesses they may carry. If your family spends a lot of time out in your yard or you often keep your pet in your yard, you may want to look into a mosquito misting system. Many of these systems use botanical insecticide that is effective against mosquitoes but not dangerous to children or pets.

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