

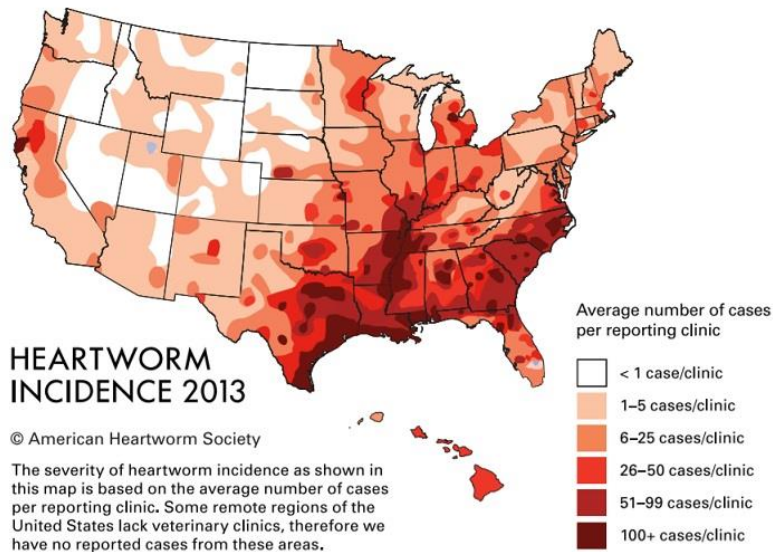


## HEARTWORM DISEASE IN DOGS

### Where is heartworm disease found?

Heartworm disease is very prevalent within the United States. Wisconsin is no exception and has reported cases of heartworm disease. This is a devastating disease inflicted on dogs which is why our philosophy on heartworm prevention is strict and why we require our adopters to comply with monthly heartworm prevention as part of our adoption agreement.

Tailwaggers 911 has rescued heartworm positive dogs and provided the costly treatments to help save their lives.



### What is heartworm disease?

Heartworm disease is a fatal condition if left untreated. Heartworm is caused by the parasite *Dirofilaria immitis* and is transmitted by infected mosquitos. When an infected mosquito bites, larvae are deposited on the dog's skin. These larvae eventually move through the dog's skin, tissues, and pass into the dog's blood stream. Once in the bloodstream, the larvae are transported to the arteries of the lung. It takes approximately six months for the larvae to mature into adult worms and then begin producing offspring which replicate within the dogs arteries and eventually move into the heart. The end results are fatal if left untreated.

## How is heartworm disease diagnosed?

Heartworm can be diagnosed by a simple blood test that tests for the presence of adult and juvenile worms. If your dog tests positive for heartworm ultra sound and x-rays may be used to confirm the extent of worms in the heart or lungs. Blood tests are conducted annually however dogs on heartworm preventative may be eligible to be tested every two years.

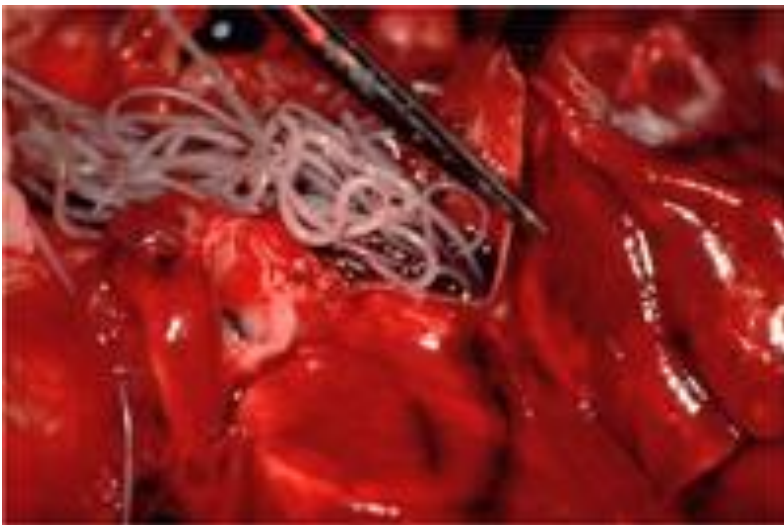
## How is heartworm disease treated?

Treatment is administered by a Veterinarian and consists of a series of injections of an immiticide (poison). Complete rest after treatment is essential as the worms decompose and break up to reduce the risk of worms getting lodged in the dog's blood vessels.

## How can I prevent heartworm disease?

- **Prevention is key! Heartworm disease is 100% preventable.**
- Prevention is easy and affordable costing less than \$10.00 per month and is inexpensive when compared to treatment costs for heartworm disease.
- Preventatives come in different forms (i.e. topical applications, oral pills, injections) and must be prescribed by a veterinarian.
- Prevention should be given year round. Some veterinarians recommend it only during the "mosquito season". Tailwaggers 911 is a huge proponent of year round prevention because you never know where you might go and when mosquitos officially appear or disappear for the year.

**START YOUR PREVENTION TODAY!**



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