

MOSQUITOES & YOUR DOG



Dog heartworm is a mosquito-borne parasite common in the canine family in this area. Symptoms of dog heartworm can vary considerably in different animals, and a veterinarian is the only person qualified to give a proper diagnosis. Many dogs show the first visible indications of infection only after the disease has progressed to the point where treatment is needed immediately.

**HAVE YOUR DOG TESTED
FOR HEARTWORM TODAY!!**



For information on mosquito control services, contact:
Central Mass Mosquito Control Project
111 Otis St. Northborough, Mass. 01532
tel. (508) 393-3055 • fax (508) 393-8492
www.cmmcp.org

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FACTS ABOUT DOG HEARTWORM

- ◆ The adult worms live primarily in the **heart and large vessels of the lungs**, and disrupt the flow of blood by impairing the proper closure of the animal's heart valves.
- ◆ Symptoms can be loss of body weight, chronic cough, shortness of breath, muscular weakness, and **will eventually lead to death**.
- ◆ Larval heartworms live in the animal's bloodstream and are incapable of reaching the adult stage without first passing through a developmental stage in a mosquito's body. **REDUCE MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES ON YOUR PROPERTY.**
- ◆ A blood test by a veterinarian is the only way to determine whether or not your dog has heartworm disease. **EARLY DETECTION IS VERY IMPORTANT.**
- ◆ Dog heartworm can be cured if the disease is diagnosed early enough. The treatment used can also be toxic to the dog however, and must be administered **only under the supervision of a qualified veterinarian**.
- ◆ Preventative medication is available from your vet, **but can cause complications in animals with established heartworm infections**. Please have a blood test done by your vet before giving any heartworm medication.
- ◆ The parasite is not limited to dogs. Fox, wolf, and raccoon have been shown to be harbor infection, and evidence implies that the skunk, muskrat, and opossum may also become infected. **House cats are not affected however.**

The best way to protect your dog is to use preventative medication and to minimize exposure to mosquitoes.

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