



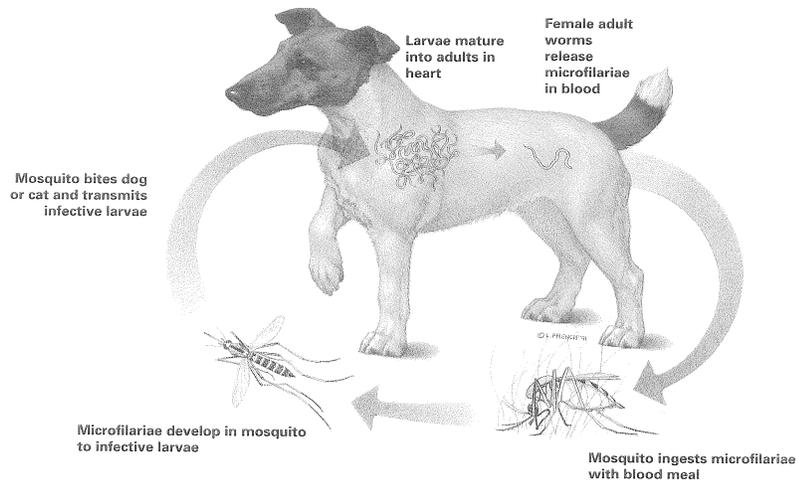
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Heartworms & Prevention

Heartworm disease is becoming increasingly more common in South Florida. Thousands of cases are diagnosed in the state each year. Microfilaria, or "baby heartworms", are ingested by a mosquito biting an infected dog or cat. After living in the mosquito for 1-2 weeks, the microfilaria are injected into another dog or cat when the mosquito feeds. It takes about six (6) months for the baby heartworm to reach adulthood after infecting the pet (see heartworm life cycle below).

Dirofilaria immitis



Mosquitos are a year round problem here in Florida. There is **NO WAY** to keep your pet from being bitten by mosquitoes, even if they live only indoors! Delayed treatment for heartworm disease may result in heart failure and/or permanent damage to the liver, lungs, and kidneys, or even sudden death.

PREVENTION IS THE KEY TO AVOIDING HEARTWORM DISEASE

If your dog or cat is under 6 months of age, a preventative medicine that destroys "baby heartworms" can be started immediately. This medication can be given on a monthly basis for the rest of your pet's life. If your pet is over 6 months old, a simple blood test must be performed to ensure he or she is not already infected, then medication can be started.

You may think your pet is safe from heartworms if he or she is indoors, however, ***it only takes one mosquito to transmit this fatal disease!*** Heartworm prevention protects your pets so they can enjoy a longer and healthier life.