

Protect your pet – heartworm kills

My veterinarian is recommending heartworm medication for my dog. Is this necessary?

Q. Heartworm is a very serious problem. It can cause damage to the liver, kidneys, lungs and heart – and if left untreated, will cause death.

Heartworm is exactly what it sounds like – worms inhabiting the right side of the heart and surrounding blood vessels. Immature worms produced by female worms move through the blood, and when a mosquito bites an infected dog, these young worms live in the mosquito. After living in a mosquito for about two

weeks, the worms can infect a dog if it gets bitten by the mosquito.

The heartworm medication that your dog receives every month during the mosquito season, if used properly, prevents this horrible disease from occurring.

A. My pet was diagnosed with intestinal parasite (worms). How can I get rid of them?

Q. Intestinal parasites in pets are quite common and once diagnosed, can be

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easily treated with medication supplied by your veterinarian. There are preventative measures to reduce the risk of infestation.

It is recommended that a fecal examination of your pet's stool be done annually.

Try to remove feces from the areas that your pet frequents. Do not let your pet eat rodents such as mice, rats or rabbits. Make sure to control fleas since they can infect your pet with parasites. If your pet is found to be infected with fleas, make sure to deworm them with

medication from your vet at the same time that you get rid of the fleas.

Worms are not the only type of parasite that can infect your pet. Certain single-celled organisms such as coccidia and giardia can result in mild to severe intestinal disease. Pets come into contact with them through stagnant water or from infected feces. Medications are available to treat these problems, too.



Reward your pet's loyalty with homemade doggie treats

Doggie Delights

- 1 jar baby food (meat variety)
- 1 cup wheat germ
- 1 cup skim milk powder
- 1 egg

▼ Mix the ingredients and drop spoonfuls onto a well-greased cookie sheet.

▼ Bake for 18 to 20 minutes at 350°C. Bake slightly longer for harder cookies.

▼ These treats freeze well.

This recipe was provided by Barb Herbert from the Uxbridge Co-op pet headquarters.

Herbert stressed that if these cookies are not baked on a well-greased cookie sheet, they will never come off.

Adopt a Pet

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L-R: These are just two of 10 husky-cross puppies that will be ready for adoption in two weeks. The one-year-old orange female cat has medium-long hair and gold eyes and is very curious. This shepherd-cross female is about three-months old. This female three to four-year-old calico was found in Uxbridge and is very affectionate. Jasmine, a two-year-old shepherd-terrier cross, needs her shots and is very timid.

Photos by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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