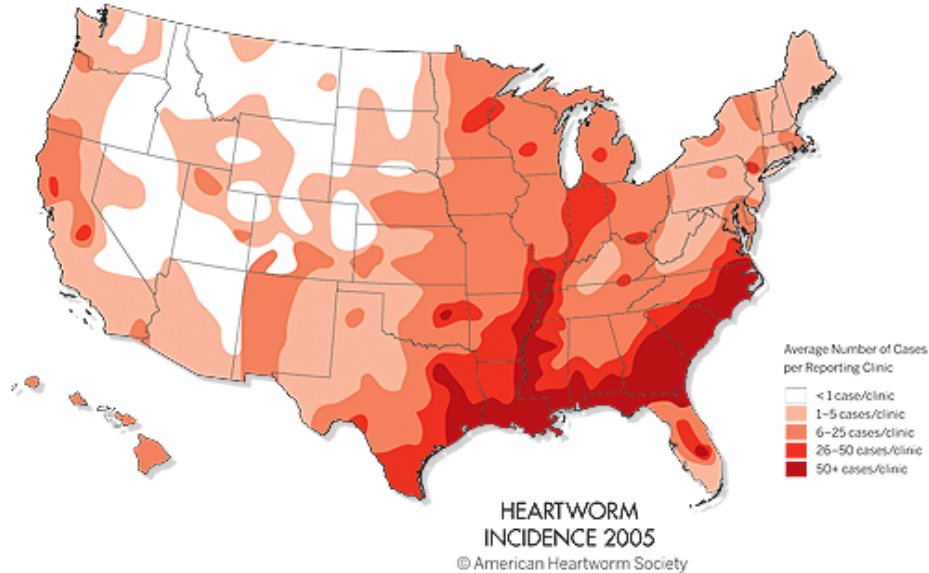
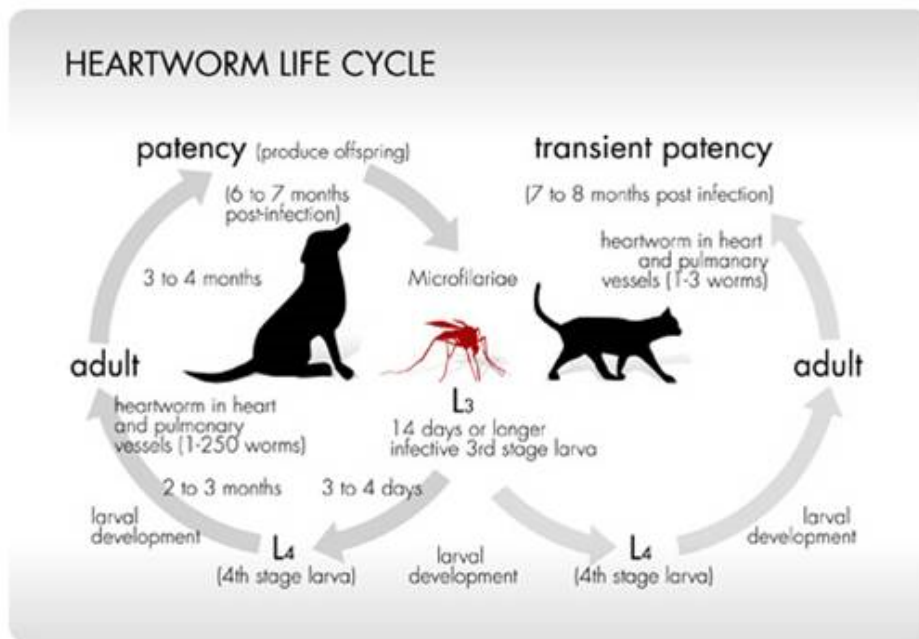


April has been designated as National Heartworm Awareness month. We want to take this opportunity to make you aware of the risk this deadly disease poses to both dogs and cats, and how you can protect your pets from it. Common in the Southeast United States, but occurring through out the North, Central and South American continent, as well as in the Old World, this disease is transmitted by the mosquito, and develops when the heartworm larvae establish themselves in the blood vessels in the heart and lungs of the pet.



Because the symptoms of this disease do not develop until many months, and sometimes years after infection, you pet may live with this organism for a long time before becoming symptomatic or ill. Unfortunately, many patients, once they develop symptoms, may not recover from them, and may have heart or lung problems for the remainder of their life.

The good news is that there are safe and relatively inexpensive products to prevent heartworm disease. These products are given once a month, and will prevent heartworms, intestinal parasites, and even fleas! You should give these medications to pet 12 months out of the year, because mosquitoes can hatch out even during a brief warm spell, and it only takes a single bite to expose your pet.



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For many years, it was thought that only dogs got heartworms, but it has been discovered that although the incidence is lower, and the number of worms found are fewer, cats do indeed get heartworms, and the effects can be just as deadly. There are once a month products for the protection of cats as well and we recommend that they also be used year round, even on indoor cats.