

Figure 2: <http://www.heartwormsociety.org/download/AHS-2013-Incidence-Map.pdf>

Heartworm Prevalence in San Diego

- Heartworms are present in San Diego, with a recent increase in incidence due to the influx of displaced dogs from Hurricane Katrina.
- The high coyote population in the San Diego area serves as a reservoir for heartworms, allowing them to remain present despite increased awareness and prevention.
- Clinics in Southern California reported 1-5 cases of heartworm infected dogs in 2013.

Prevention is key

- Cost of prevention is approximately \$10 per month. See our [product description article](#) for available options and ask your vet which product is right for your pet.
- While treatment of canine heartworm disease is usually successful, prevention of the disease is much safer and more economical. There are a variety of options for preventing heartworm infection, including daily and monthly tablets and chewables, monthly topicals and a six-month injectable product. These products are extremely effective and when administered properly on a timely schedule, heartworm infection can be prevented.
- The American Heartworm Society is now recommending year-round prevention, even in seasonal areas. One reason for this is compliance – to make sure the medicine has been given properly by the pet owner.
- Most monthly heartworm preventives have activity against intestinal parasites. Many of these same intestinal parasites that infect dogs can also infect people, with estimated infections occurring in three to six million people every year. We see a lot of intestinal parasites in San Diego, especially at the beaches and dog parks. So this added benefit of monthly deworming makes great sense. (children and the elderly are most at risk)
- Before starting a preventive program, we require that all dogs be tested first.
- Annual testing and year round purchase of prevention from your veterinarian are a requirement to receive guarantees from the manufacturer, which will pay for cost of treatment should your pet become infected.

Costs of Prevention vs. Treatment

- Treatment for heartworm infection can cost up to \$1000 or more, with many different factors playing a role in the actual cost.
- Many dogs will not show symptoms of heartworm until the disease has progressed and caused the heart and lungs to be severely affected. Coughing, unusual exercise intolerance and labored breathing are all cause for concern.
- Our in-house heartworm test takes about 8 minutes and costs \$35.63, the test includes screening for Heartworm, Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Ehrlichiosis. Heartworm prevention costs approximately \$10 per month on average.

The Heartworm Life Cycle

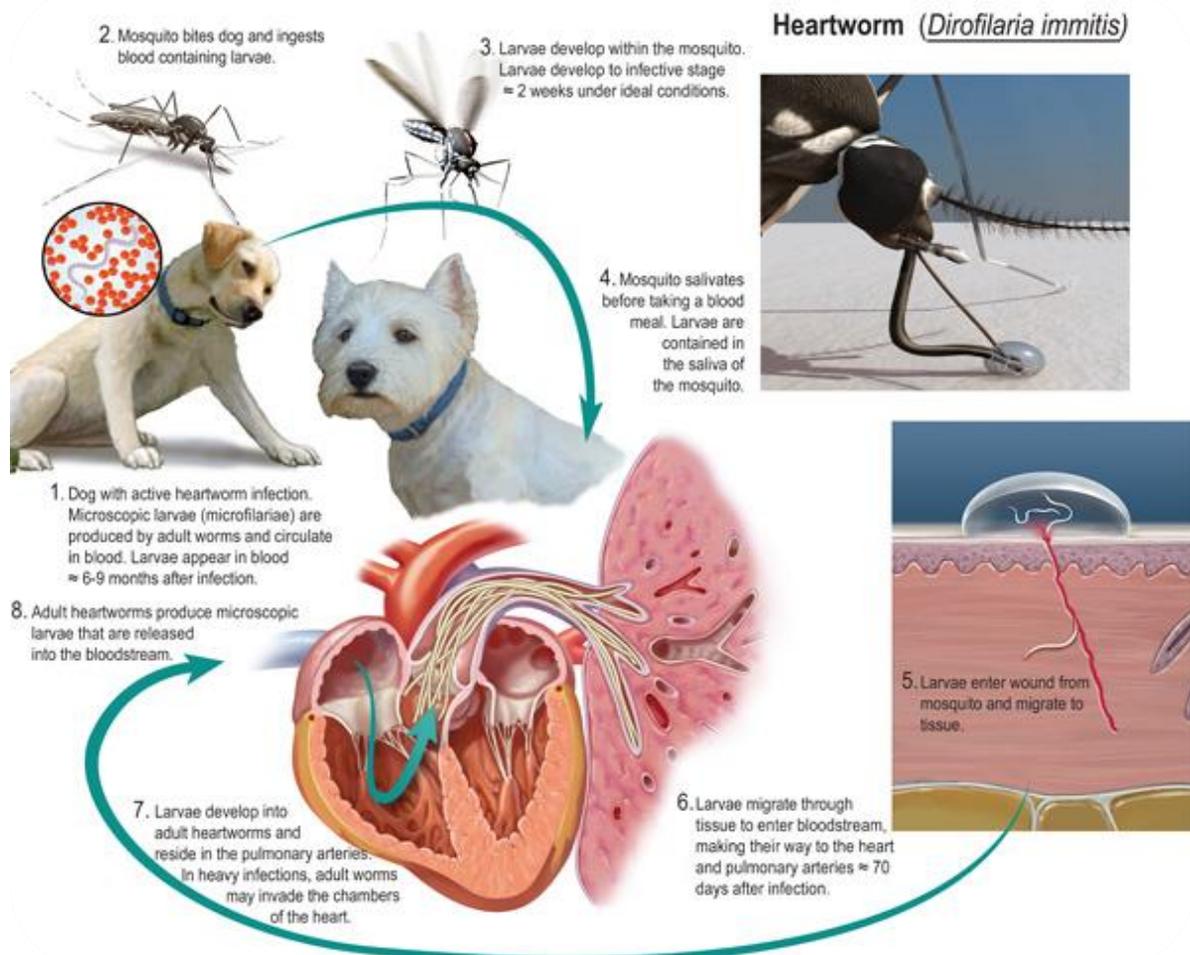


Figure 1: <http://www.trifexis.com/about-parasites/about-heartworms/heartworm-lifecycle.aspx>