



Dangers of the The Diagnostic Blindspot

Heartworm disease can take months to detect through testing, and many pets are asymptomatic.

Providing a preventative that protects within one month is the smartest way to avoid lasting damage.

Damage to a heart at 6-7 months, often before diagnosis is possible

DAMAGE CAN BE IRREVERSIBLE

MATURE ADULT PRODUCING MICROFILARIAE
Adults live 5-7 yrs / microfilariae can live up to 3-5 yrs

TREATMENT REQUIRED



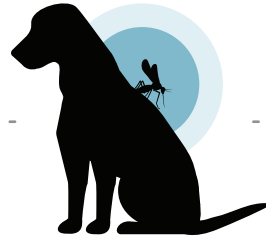
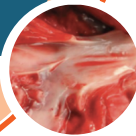
DEVELOPING ADULT
70-150 days

DIAGNOSTIC BLINDSPOT

45-65 days
L4 LARVAE

PREVENTION EFFECTIVE
3-4 days (up to 12)
L3 LARVAE

Heart in early stages



Mosquito ingests microfilariae (larvae) from a heartworm-infected animal. Within 10-14 days larvae grow from L1 to L3 (under ideal conditions), which are then transferred to a new host via mosquito bite.

Damage to lungs at 6 months



NO TREATMENT AVAILABLE

MATURE ADULT PRODUCING MICROFILARIAE
Adults live 3-4 yrs / microfilariae rarely circulate



NO TREATMENT AVAILABLE

DEVELOPING ADULT
4-6 months

L3 LARVAE
3-4 days

Lung in early stages



PREVENTION EFFECTIVE
~2 months
L4 LARVAE

DIAGNOSTIC BLINDSPOT



Damage to lungs at ~2 months

Most dogs are not antigen positive until 7 months, by which time heartworms (and the damage they cause) can be found in the heart and blood vessels. Prevention in the early months is important.

Diagnostic testing in cats can be challenging due to the low number of adult heartworms present, often necessitating multimodal testing approaches. There is no treatment available for cats, making prevention crucial from the start.

Reference:

1. Current Canine Guidelines for the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) Infection in Dogs. American Heartworm Society. 2020.