



Superior Animal Hospital & Boarding Suites, Ltd.

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HEARTWORM PREVENTION FOR DOGS

Heartworm disease is a serious parasitic disease occurring primarily in dogs and is diagnosed in this area. Mosquitoes are the vector (transmitter) of the disease. Once the mosquito bites a dog that is carrying heartworms, it can transmit them to other dogs (and sometimes even cats). The adult heartworms live in the heart and lungs with devastating consequences.

We recommend that all dogs be tested annually for heartworm disease. It is accurately detected with a simple blood test. The most important part of heartworm disease is PREVENTION. There are several options available for prevention that we recommend.

1. **Heartgard Plus:** This is a once a month chewable pill that is given May 15 through October 15 (6 months). This medication also effectively controls intestinal roundworms and hookworms. These are common parasites that have the potential to infect humans, especially children. This product can be given year round, which is very important for dogs that travel south during the off season (October 15-May 15). Dogs that are on year round medicine only need to be heartworm tested every other year.