

7 Deadly Truths of Heartworm Disease in Cats



Feline heartworm disease has been diagnosed in all 50 states. Be sure to discuss heartworm prevention with your veterinarian at your cat's annual check-up.

- 1 Infected mosquitoes spread heartworm, and approximately 3 in 4 cats exposed to heartworm-infected mosquito larvae become infected.
- 2 Adult heartworms can live for 2–4 years in cats.
- 3 Even 1 immature heartworm can permanently affect your cat's health and ability to breathe by causing an inflammatory reaction in the blood vessels and lungs.
- 4 Researchers began studying feline heartworm disease 20 years ago. Now we know that cats get heartworms almost as often as dogs, although heartworm tests in cats don't always catch infection.
- 5 There are NO approved medications for treating heartworm in cats. If your cat develops heartworm infection, you and your veterinarian can only manage, not treat, the cat's condition.
- 6 1 in 4 cases of heartworm occur in cats that live indoors. Since mosquitoes can get inside, indoor cats need protection, too.
- 7 Only 5% of cats are on preventive medication. It is important to discuss prevention with your veterinarian at your annual check-up.



While heartworms can cause serious—and potentially fatal—disease in cats, preventing heartworm disease is easy. Talk to your veterinarian about what preventive product will work best for you and your cat. Know the truths about heartworm and protect your cat 12 months a year.



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