



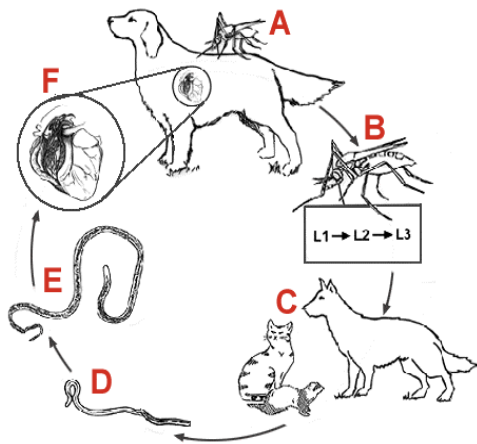
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HEARTWORM DISEASE PREVENTION

Dirofilaria immitis Life Cycle



Heartworms are long, thin parasites that live inside a dog's heart. They cause damage to the heart and lead to heart failure. The diagram to the left depicts the life cycle of heartworms. The microfilaria (baby heartworms) are picked up by mosquitoes (A). The microfilaria become larvae inside the mosquito (B) that then get under the skin of a new dog (or other animal) when the mosquito bites the next animal (C). These larvae then become adult heartworms inside the new dog and begin producing microfilaria again (D,E,F).

Prevention of heartworm disease is easy and is essential to a long, healthy life for your dog. Infected dogs can be treated but the damage to the heart is irreversible. Prevention is a much better alternative to ensuring a healthy heart.

North Indy Mobile Vet recommends **HEARTGARD PLUS**: Given once a month year round to protect your dog from heartworm disease. It also treats/controls intestinal parasites.

If heartworm prevention is given year round, a heartworm test will only be performed every other year.

Websites for more information:

www.canismajor.com/dog/hartworm.html

http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/merial/hrtworm/hw_1a.htm

Feel free to call Dr. Herrmann with any questions regarding heartworm disease and prevention.