

# Heartworm In Dogs

## Heartworm are present throughout Australia

If you live outside Australia check with your vet if heartworm are present in your area.

Heartworm live in the heart and blood vessels of the dog. They can grow up to 30cm. It takes about 6 months for them to develop. A young worm is carried in the dog's blood and is absorbed by a mosquito which then infects another dog. It is not directly transferrable from one dog to another without the mosquito as the host. It restricts the flow of blood through the body and blocks heart valves

### *Signs of Heartworm*

Coughing

Low tolerance for exercise

Weight loss

Difficulty breathing

Collapse

### *Prevention*

Start puppies on heartworm medication as Early as Possible

Different products are available and Treatments For Different Parasites can be combined

A yearly injection can be given.

For older dogs that have not had heartworm preventatives it is critical to consult a vet to ensure the dog does not have the disease before beginning preventatives.

*For more information on Heartworm go to*

*[http://www.petalia.com.au/templates/storytemplate\\_process.cfm?](http://www.petalia.com.au/templates/storytemplate_process.cfm?)*



These are some of the products that your vet may suggest you use to prevent heartworm.

*Photos with kind permission and help from Dr Julie Daniels, Caboolture Veterinary Clinic*



Annual heartworm Injection



Monthly Heartworm and Intestinal Worm Chewables



Heartworm, Flea and Worm Protection

