

♥ Heartworm Disease in Cats

When most people think of heartworm disease, they think of dogs — but cats are at risk too. While cats are not the “preferred host,” even a small number of heartworms can cause serious illness. Prevention is the best protection.



What Is Heartworm Disease?

Heartworms are parasites spread by mosquitoes. Once inside the body, the worms can travel to the heart, lungs, and blood vessels, causing severe damage.



Why Heartworm Disease Is Different in Cats

- *Cats are more resistant than dogs, but they can still become infected.*
- *Even one or two worms can cause dangerous breathing problems or sudden illness.*
- *Unlike dogs, there is **no safe treatment to eliminate heartworms in cats.***



Signs of Heartworm Disease in Cats

Some cats show no signs, while others may develop:

- *Coughing or difficulty breathing*
- *Vomiting*
- *Lethargy or weakness*
- *Sudden collapse or even sudden death in severe cases*

Because signs can mimic asthma or other conditions, diagnosis can be tricky.



How Heartworm Is Diagnosed

Your veterinarian may recommend:

- *Blood tests*
- *Chest X-rays*
- *Ultrasound of the heart and lungs*



Prevention Is the Best Protection

*Since there is no cure for cats, **monthly heartworm prevention is essential.** Prescription preventatives are safe, effective, and protect your cat from both heartworms and other parasites. 🐾 **Bottom line:** Heartworm disease in cats is serious but preventable. Keeping your cat on year-round prevention is the easiest way to protect their health.*