

HEARTWORM

Dear Customers,

We want to highlight the danger of a disease, that's rapidly spreading in Hungary!

The disease is *Dirofilaria immitis*, or Heartworm, a parasitic worm that causes severe heart failure and lung disease in dogs and can lead to their death.

Once a dog is infected, the disease's ongoing treatment can take months or years, accompanied by severe pain, discomfort, and serious financial cost.

That's why it's essential to protect your dog from getting infected. We have two protective solutions - monthly oil applied (spot on's) or tablets.

LIFE CYCLE OF THE HEARTWORM

The larvae (a juvenile form of worms) are transmitted by mosquito bite to the dog's blood, from where, after some metamorphoses they settle in the heart and the great vessels of the lungs, and start reproduction, while newborn larvae get in the infected dog's blood.

The lifespan of adult worms can be 5-7 years.

SYMPTOMS OF THE INFECTED DOG

Heartworms are 15-40 cm long and a lot of them can live in your dog's heart so it causes the dilatation of the heart, the muscles of the heart become thin and weak, so the dog will show the symptoms of heart failure: coughing, fatigue, loss of appetite, reluctance to exercise, and over time - the death of the severely infected dog.

PREVENTION

We can protect from the infection with monthly oil applied (spot-on) or tablets. But before starting to use these medicines a veterinary examination and blood tests are necessary to check if your dog has already been infected with Heartworms.

It's essential because using these medicines on infected dogs without caution and care, can cause severe complications, harm, and possible death of the infected dog!

BLOOD TESTS

There are two blood tests for the examination of the presence of the infection.

We have to check if there are already larvae in the blood, and antibodies in the blood produced against the adult female Heartworm.

If both the tests are negative, we can start the prevention.

If any of the tests are positive we need further examination to detect the type and stage of the infection.

TREATMENT

By the time we see an infected dog with developed symptoms, the animal has probably been suffering - perhaps from months or years of infection. The treatment can be aggressive with severe pain and discomfort, has high costs, and despite the best veterinarian efforts to destroy the heartworms, it can be too late - a sad consequence that you can avoid.

That's why we suggest all dog owners use consequent monthly prevention against Heartworms!

Make it a part of the yearly care and inoculations that you already do.

If you have any questions about the disease don't hesitate to contact us! We look forward to meeting you and your pets.

Uccu! Veterinary Practice