

What's next?

Thanks for bringing your pet in to see us. We performed a test for mature heartworm infections, as well as infections transmitted by ticks.

We want you to know that your pet tested positive for adult heartworms. Let's talk about what's next.

Test results



Heartworm disease detected!

Your pet tested positive for heartworm antigen, which was transmitted by a mosquito bite. The test we performed indicates presence of antigens that are specific for heartworm infection.

We are here to help, so call us if you have questions.

In good health,
Your friends at



This information is provided for educational purposes only and is being provided to you at the request of the attending veterinarian at the veterinary hospital indicated above.

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We have a plan!

Finding out your pet has a positive result can be concerning. That's why we built a simple plan to determine if treatment is needed.

Step 1 : What does this mean?

- + Your pet was bitten by a mosquito that carried the immature baby heartworm larvae. Antigens specific to heartworms were found in the blood sample, which indicates a current infection with adult worms.
- + Though dogs may display no clear signs of heartworm disease, this infection is dangerous and may cause coughing, difficulty breathing, exercise intolerance, fluid on the abdomen, enlarged liver and loss of consciousness.
- + Rest assured, your pet cannot directly transmit heartworms to you or your family.

Step 2 : Does your pet need treatment?

We need to investigate if your pet should be treated for heartworm disease. Thankfully, one or two simple tests can help us make this decision. Together, we'll make a plan to decide which tests are most appropriate.

- + Confirm heartworm test
 - Look for immature heartworm larvae in blood.
 - Repeat antigen test to verify result prior to treatment.
- + Chest imaging
 - X-rays and/or ultrasound to assess heart and lung health.
- + CBC, chemistry panel and urinalysis
 - May be recommended to assess overall health prior to treatment.

Step 3 : What does treatment look like?

If the follow-up tests indicate your pet would benefit from treatment, we will prescribe a treatment plan that includes medications to kill adult heartworms. Sometimes additional treatments may be necessary, depending on how the rest of the body has been impacted by heartworm disease.

Step 4 : What can I do next?

- + We'll continue to test during annual checkups as signs of disease or infection can be hard to detect.
- + It's also important to ensure your pet is protected with heartworm prevention year-round.