

What's next?

Thanks for bringing [redacted] in to see us. We performed a test that detects the presence of *Dirofilaria immitis* (heartworm) antigen.

We want you to know that [redacted] tested positive for *Dirofilaria immitis* (heartworm) antigen. Let's talk about what's next.

Test results



Heartworm antigen detected

[redacted] tested positive for *Dirofilaria immitis* (heartworm) antigen. *Dirofilaria immitis* is the blood-borne parasite that causes heartworm disease. The infection was caused by a bite from a mosquito carrying heartworm microfilariae (immature heartworm larvae). Mosquitoes transmit heartworms by biting infected animals and carrying blood with the heartworm microfilariae to other animals.

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

In good health,
Your friends at

Next steps: We have a plan!

Finding out [redacted] has a positive result can be concerning. While there is no approved treatment for heartworm in cats, we can treat any issues that the heartworms may cause. By working together, we can keep [redacted] as healthy as possible.

What are the symptoms of heartworm disease?

- + Heartworm disease in cats is much different from heartworm disease in dogs. Cats typically only have a small number of heartworms; however, the heartworms can cause secondary illnesses, like heartworm-associated respiratory disease (HARD).
- + Symptoms of heartworm disease can range from severe to barely noticeable.
- + Symptoms may include coughing, asthma-like attacks, periodic vomiting, lack of appetite, or weight loss. Rarely, cats with heartworm disease may have difficulty walking or may experience fainting or seizures.

How can we keep as healthy as possible?

- + Unfortunately, the drugs used to treat heartworm disease in dogs are not safe for cats. But by working together, we can treat any issues that the heartworms may cause for [redacted].
- + [redacted] should start monthly heartworm prevention. Monthly preventives will reduce the heartworm larvae burden before there is any evidence of sickness.

