



Heartworm Medication Guidelines

GHS will ONLY prescribe heartworm prevention to pets that have met the below criteria based on recommendations by the [American Heartworm Society](#). **No exceptions will be made.**

Dogs

- Puppies should be placed on heartworm prevention by 8 weeks of age.
- If, by 7 months of age, a puppy has not started heartworm prevention, a negative heartworm test must be performed before prevention will be prescribed.
- Dogs must receive an annual negative heartworm test in order to receive and remain on heartworm prevention.
 - You must provide proof of a negative heartworm test within the past year.
 - If it has been over a month since the heartworm test was performed, you must provide proof of continuous prevention given since the test.
- It is the owner's responsibility to provide a current prescription* from their family veterinarian (if the dog was not heartworm tested at the GHS Vaccine Clinic); prescriptions must be dated within 30 days of the refill purchase.

Cats

- Kittens can be placed on heartworm preventative at 8 weeks of age.
- A negative annual heartworm test is NOT required for maintaining heartworm prevention.
- Owners wishing to purchase heartworm prevention for their cats must either: bring the cat in for a brief exam and weight **OR** bring a current prescription* from their veterinarian.

**Please note: an empty heartworm preventative box IS NOT a valid prescription.*