

# Have a heart:

## Protect your pet from heartworms.

Know the facts about heartworms because that simple preventive your veterinarian keeps recommending costs 15 times less than treatment.

It's easy to shrug off your veterinarian when she asks if you need heartworm preventive. What are the odds of your pet getting heartworm, anyway?

Well, the answer may be: "You don't want to find out."

Take these facts to heart before you dismiss another opportunity to protect your pet from heartworms.

### Heartworms are a real danger.

Heartworms pose a serious threat to dogs' and cats' health.

**Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes.** Mosquitos can survive and thrive in a variety of climates and environments, can drink three-times their weight in blood and spread heartworm larvae as they feed.

**Mosquito season is impossible to predict.** Year-round protection is essential to ensure protection. It only takes one bite from a mosquito to infect an animal. Mosquitos are more prevalent in warm climates, but heartworm is diagnosed in all 50 states.

**Parasites impact pets and people.** Preventing intestinal parasites in cats and dogs also prevents people from contracting potentially serious diseases.

**Heartworm disease is hard to treat.** A heartworm infestation is difficult and expensive to treat in dogs and there is no approved treatment for cats. It takes approx-



\*Average cost for a 40-lb dog

imately six months for a dog to test positive for heartworms and they can grow more than 12 inches in length living in a dog's heart, lungs or blood vessels for up to seven years. Just one adult heartworm can kill a cat.

**Heartworms are easy to prevent.** Heartworm preventives are effective and easy to administer to pets. Plus prevention is much cheaper than treatment. Treatment costs more than 15 times that of a year's worth of heartworm preventive.