



Heartworm Information

At Paws Rescue League, we prioritize heartworm prevention to ensure the health and well-being of our dogs. The date of your dog's last Heartworm Test (HWT) is essential information that can be found in your dog's Medical Record, which provides a comprehensive overview of their recent veterinary care through Paws Rescue League. Additionally, refer to their Health Certificate, an official document confirming their health status.

We adhere to a strategic heartworm testing policy due to the parasite's life cycle. Dog under 28 weeks old are not tested, while those 7 months and older undergo testing prior to receiving a Health Certificate and transport. Our testing methods include snap tests for rapid results and 4DX antigen tests to detect not only heartworms but also multiple tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme, Anaplasma, and Ehrlichia. Dogs testing positive receive immediate treatment with a 6-month course of medication and ongoing care in Tennessee until cleared for transport. Dogs with negative test results receive monthly preventatives, such as Simparica Trio or Milbeguard, and a Health Exam Certificate for travel. Our testing and treatment protocols follow American Heartworm Society standards. This rigorous testing and treatment protocol enables us to provide healthy dogs to adoptive families.

If your adopted dog tests positive for Heartworms, Lyme, Anaplasma, or Ehrlichia, Paws Rescue League will support you through social media fundraising posts and recommendations for experienced veterinarians in your area for heartworm treatment. However, please note that, as stated in the adoption contract, we do not provide financial assistance for these treatments post-adoption.

Despite this, we remain committed to your dog's health and well-being. Our team is available to explain heartworm and tick-borne illnesses, discuss testing protocols, and provide guidance on treatment options and prevention. We prioritize educating and supporting you to ensure your dog receives the best possible care.

To protect your dog's health, it's crucial to continue regular heartworm tests through your veterinarian and maintain monthly preventatives. Schedule annual heartworm tests, typically during routine check-ups or wellness exams, to detect any potential issues. Additionally, administer monthly heartworm preventatives, such as Simparica Trio, or Milbeguard, as prescribed by your veterinarian.

Regular testing and preventatives are vital because heartworm disease can be fatal if left untreated. Moreover, tick-borne illnesses like Lyme disease, Anaplasma, and Ehrlichia pose significant health risks. By prioritizing regular testing and preventatives, you'll safeguard your dog's health and well-being. Consult with your veterinarian to discuss heartworm prevention and testing tailored to your dog's specific needs. They'll provide expert guidance and recommendations.

To keep your new dog happy and healthy, remember to administer monthly preventatives to protect them from ticks, fleas, and parasites. Utilize the Monthly Preventative Check List to track when you give each dose and plan ahead for the next month. This simple habit prevents heartworm disease, controls ticks and fleas, and guards against intestinal parasites.