

# 7 MUST-KNOWS ABOUT HEARTWORM DISEASE IN DOGS

1.

## Heartworms Are Significant Parasites of Dogs

- Heartworms can affect the dog's **quality** and **quantity** of life. In the early stages, many dogs do not show clinical signs of infection. As the disease progresses, it is more likely that clinical signs, including **mild persistent cough**, **decreased exercise tolerance**, **decreased appetite**, and **weight loss**, will be seen.

2.

## Heartworms Are Spread by Mosquitoes

- The bite from **one infected mosquito** can cause **lifelong damage** to a dog.
- 1 million dogs** are estimated to be **heartworm positive** in the United States each year.<sup>1</sup>

3.

## Testing for Heartworm Infections Is Essential

- The American Heartworm Society (AHS) and The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) **recommend yearly testing for heartworms**, because visible signs of heartworm infection are not always present.<sup>2,3</sup>

4.

## Heartworms Cause Permanent Damage

- Once a dog requires heartworm disease treatment, **damage** to the lungs and pulmonary arteries **remains for the rest of its life**.

5.

## Heartworms Can Be Killed

- Remind pet owners that while treatment is available, it is **always better to prevent** heartworm disease.
- Treatment is **expensive** and can be **painful** for the dog.

6.

## Heartworm Disease Is an Invisible but Preventable Threat

- Year-round heartworm disease prevention** is recommended for dogs.<sup>2,4</sup> Remind pet owners that year-round protection with HEARTGARD<sup>®</sup> Plus (ivermectin/pyrantel) is a safe and delicious way to prevent the danger of heartworm disease for dogs. HEARTGARD Plus is the **ONLY** heartworm preventive made with **REAL beef**. Owners find it easy to administer, and **dogs prefer it** over other products.<sup>5</sup>

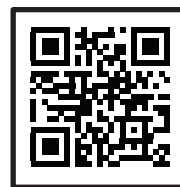
7.

## Don't Stop With Heartworms

- Hookworms and roundworms are **more prevalent than whipworms and tapeworms**.<sup>6</sup> In fact, they're **the most prevalent** internal nematode parasites of dogs.<sup>6</sup> Plus, over **90% of puppies** under 3 months old **are infected** with roundworms.<sup>7</sup>
- These **zoonotic worms** can be transmitted from **infected animals to humans**.
- A **comprehensive health care program** for infected dogs includes preventing heartworm disease as well as deworming hookworms and roundworms using easy-to-administer protection every 30 days.



For more information on pet owner education, reach out to your Boehringer Ingelheim sales representative or scan the QR code with your smartphone to visit [www.HEARTGARDclinic.com](http://www.HEARTGARDclinic.com).



**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:** HEARTGARD<sup>®</sup> Plus (ivermectin/pyrantel) is well tolerated. All dogs should be tested for heartworm infection before starting a preventive program. Following the use of HEARTGARD Plus, digestive and neurological side effects have rarely been reported. For more information, please see full prescribing information or visit [www.HEARTGARDclinic.com](http://www.HEARTGARDclinic.com).

1. Heartworm prevalent in South, expanding in other hot spots. American Veterinary Medical Association. Accessed August 23, 2021. <https://www.avma.org/javma-news/2020-08-01/heartworm-prevalent-south-expanding-other-hot-spots> 2. Current Canine Guidelines for the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) Infection in Dogs. American Heartworm Society. Accessed August 11, 2021. <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/veterinary-resources/american-heartworm-society-guidelines> 3. CAPC Guidelines: Heartworm. Companion Animal Parasite Council. Accessed August 11, 2021. <https://capcvet.org/guidelines/heartworm/> 4. AAHA-AVMA Canine Preventive Healthcare Guidelines. American Animal Hospital Association and American Veterinary Medical Association. Accessed August 11, 2021. [https://www.aaaha.org/globalassets/02-guidelines/preventive-healthcare/caninepreventiveguidelines\\_pphp.pdf](https://www.aaaha.org/globalassets/02-guidelines/preventive-healthcare/caninepreventiveguidelines_pphp.pdf) 5. Data on file at Boehringer Ingelheim. 6. AVMA. Internal Parasites in Cats and Dogs. Accessed September 2, 2021. [https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/internalparasites\\_brochure.pdf](https://ebusiness.avma.org/files/productdownloads/internalparasites_brochure.pdf) 7. Schantz PM. Zoonotic ascarids and hookworms: the role for veterinarians in preventing human disease. In: Emerging Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases. *Compend Contin Educ Pract Vet*. 2002;24(suppl 1):47-52.

# Heartgard® (ivermectin/pyrantel) Plus

## CHEWABLES

**CAUTION:** Federal (U.S.A.) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

**INDICATIONS:** For use in dogs to prevent canine heartworm disease by eliminating the tissue stage of heartworm larvae (*Dirofilaria immitis*) for a month (30 days) after infection and for the treatment and control of ascarids (*Toxocara canis*, *Toxascaris leonina*) and hookworms (*Ancylostoma caninum*, *Uncinaria stenocephala*, *Ancylostoma braziliense*).

**DOSAGE:** HEARTGARD® Plus (ivermectin/pyrantel) should be administered orally at monthly intervals at the recommended minimum dose level of 6 mcg of ivermectin per kilogram (2.72 mcg/lb) and 5 mg of pyrantel (as pamoate salt) per kg (2.27 mg/lb) of body weight. The recommended dosing schedule for prevention of canine heartworm disease and for the treatment and control of ascarids and hookworms is as follows:

Dog Weight	Chewables Per Month	Ivermectin Content	Pyrantel Content	Color Coding On Foil Backing and Carton
Up to 25 lb	1	68 mcg	57 mg	Blue
26 to 50 lb	1	136 mcg	114 mg	Green
51 to 100 lb	1	272 mcg	227 mg	Brown

HEARTGARD Plus is recommended for dogs 6 weeks of age and older. For dogs over 100 lb use the appropriate combination of these chewables.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Remove only one chewable at a time from the foil-backed blister card. Return the card with the remaining chewables to its box to protect the product from light. Because most dogs find HEARTGARD Plus palatable, the product can be offered to the dog by hand. Alternatively, it may be added intact to a small amount of dog food. The chewable should be administered in a manner that encourages the dog to chew, rather than to swallow without chewing. Chewables may be broken into pieces and fed to dogs that normally swallow treats whole.

Care should be taken that the dog consumes the complete dose, and treated animals should be observed for a few minutes after administration to ensure that part of the dose is not lost or rejected. If it is suspected that any of the dose has been lost, redosing is recommended.

HEARTGARD Plus should be given at monthly intervals during the period of the year when mosquitoes (vectors), potentially carrying infective heartworm larvae, are active. The initial dose must be given within a month (30 days) after the dog's first exposure to mosquitoes. The final dose must be given within a month (30 days) after the dog's last exposure to mosquitoes.

When replacing another heartworm preventive product in a heartworm disease preventive program, the first dose of HEARTGARD Plus must be given within a month (30 days) of the last dose of the former medication.

If the interval between doses exceeds a month (30 days), the efficacy of ivermectin can be reduced. Therefore, for optimal performance, the chewable must be given once a month on or about the same day of the month. If treatment is delayed, whether by a few days or many, immediate treatment with HEARTGARD Plus and resumption of the recommended dosing regimen will minimize the opportunity for the development of adult heartworms.

Monthly treatment with HEARTGARD Plus also provides effective treatment and control of ascarids (*T. canis*, *T. leonina*) and hookworms (*A. caninum*, *U. stenocephala*, *A. braziliense*). Clients should be advised of measures to be taken to prevent reinfection with intestinal parasites.

**EFFICACY:** HEARTGARD Plus Chewables, given orally using the recommended dose and regimen, are effective against the tissue larval stage of *D. immitis* for a month (30 days) after infection and, as a result, prevent the development of the adult stage. HEARTGARD Plus Chewables are also effective against canine ascarids (*T. canis*, *T. leonina*) and hookworms (*A. caninum*, *U. stenocephala*, *A. braziliense*).

**ACCEPTABILITY:** In acceptability and field trials, HEARTGARD Plus was shown to be an acceptable oral dosage form that was consumed at first offering by the majority of dogs.

**PRECAUTIONS:** All dogs should be tested for existing heartworm infection before starting treatment with HEARTGARD Plus which is not effective against adult *D. immitis*. Infected dogs must be treated to remove adult heartworms and microfilariae before initiating a program with HEARTGARD Plus.

While some microfilariae may be killed by the ivermectin in HEARTGARD Plus at the recommended dose level, HEARTGARD Plus is not effective for microfilariae clearance. A mild hypersensitivity-type reaction, presumably due to dead or dying microfilariae and particularly involving a transient diarrhea, has been observed in clinical trials with ivermectin alone after treatment of some dogs that have circulating microfilariae.

**Keep this and all drugs out of the reach of children.**

In case of ingestion by humans, clients should be advised to contact a physician immediately. Physicians may contact a Poison Control Center for advice concerning cases of ingestion by humans.

Store between 68°F - 77°F (20°C - 25°C). Excursions between 59°F - 86°F (15°C - 30°C) are permitted. Protect product from light.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS:** In clinical field trials with HEARTGARD Plus, vomiting or diarrhea within 24 hours of dosing was rarely observed (1.1% of administered doses). The following adverse reactions have been reported following the use of HEARTGARD: Depression/lethargy, vomiting, anorexia, diarrhea, mydriasis, ataxia, staggering, convulsions and hypersalivation.

To report suspected adverse drug events, for technical assistance, or to obtain a copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS), contact Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc. at 1-888-637-4251. For additional information about adverse drug experience reporting for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS, or online at [www.fda.gov/reportanimalae](http://www.fda.gov/reportanimalae)

**SAFETY:** HEARTGARD Plus has been shown to be bioequivalent to HEARTGARD, with respect to the bioavailability of ivermectin. The dose regimens of HEARTGARD Plus and HEARTGARD are the same with regard to ivermectin (6 mcg/kg). Studies with ivermectin indicate that certain dogs of the Collie breed are more sensitive to the effects of ivermectin administered at elevated dose levels (more than 16 times the target use level) than dogs of other breeds. At elevated doses, sensitive dogs showed adverse reactions which included mydriasis, depression, ataxia, tremors, drooling, paresis, recumbency, excitability, stupor, coma and death. HEARTGARD demonstrated no signs of toxicity at 10 times the recommended dose (60 mcg/kg) in sensitive Collies. Results of these trials and bioequivalency studies, support the safety of HEARTGARD products in dogs, including Collies, when used as recommended.

HEARTGARD Plus has shown a wide margin of safety at the recommended dose level in dogs, including pregnant or breeding bitches, stud dogs and puppies aged 6 or more weeks. In clinical trials, many commonly used flea collars, dips, shampoos, anthelmintics, antibiotics, vaccines and steroid preparations have been administered with HEARTGARD Plus in a heartworm disease prevention program.

In one trial, where some pups had parvovirus, there was a marginal reduction in efficacy against intestinal nematodes, possibly due to a change in intestinal transit time.

**HOW SUPPLIED:** HEARTGARD Plus is available in three dosage strengths (See DOSAGE section) for dogs of different weights. Each strength comes in convenient cartons of 1, 6 and 12 chewables.

Marketed by  
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc.  
Duluth, GA 30096

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