IMPORTANT INFORMATION

YOUR DOG’S TREATMENT FOR HEARTWORM DISEASE

Heartworm disease and treatment are serious matters. Your dog will need some extra tender loving care and rest after treatment.

CARING FOR YOUR DOG AFTER TREATMENT

HOW LONG WILL MY DOG BE IN THE HOSPITAL?
In most cases, dogs can come home from the hospital following the procedure. However, your dog's condition and your veterinarian's judgment will best determine when your dog may go home.

HOW SOON CAN MY DOG RESUME NORMAL ACTIVITIES?
Your dog will need to rest to prevent complications resulting from stress on the heart and lungs before returning to normal activities. Remember to follow your vet's recommendations and suggested weeks of rest. This could mean:

- **Most Dogs** ▶ Staying indoors
- **Very active dogs** ▶ Remaining closely confined

Please check with your veterinarian before you allow your dog to resume normal exercise.

WORKING WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN

Are there any side effects from the treatment?
As the worms within the heart and circulatory system are killed, some dogs may experience:
- A temporary lack of appetite
- Drooling
- An upset stomach
- Panting
- Your dog may also show other signs from the presence of dead worms, including:
  - Fever
  - Depression
  - Respiratory difficulty

If these or other signs of discomfort develop, please call your veterinarian, who will see that your dog gets appropriate care.

How soon should I bring my dog back to the veterinarian?
Your veterinarian will schedule a checkup to ensure your dog's recovery is progressing. Then, nine months after treatment, your veterinarian will do a follow-up test to make sure your dog is heartworm negative.

Heartworms are easily transmitted by mosquitoes. Having them once DOES NOT make your dog immune. It's important to continue to bring your dog in for regular checkups, and to ensure your dog is on a year-round heartworm preventive, such as HEARTGARD® Plus (ivermectin/pyrantel). Your veterinarian will recommend the best heartworm preventive medication for your dog's lifestyle. Talk to your veterinarian about any questions you may have about your dog’s heartworm treatment.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:
Following the use of HEARTGARD® Plus (ivermectin/pyrantel) digestive and neurologic side effects have been reported. All dogs should be tested for heartworm infection before starting a preventive program. For more information, see enclosed full prescribing information, speak to your vet, or visit HEARTGARD.com.

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**TREATING YOUR DOG FOR HEARTWORM DISEASE**

**Physical Examination**

If your veterinarian has not already done so, he or she will first conduct a complete physical examination to determine the health status of your dog and the severity of the disease.

**Testing**

Laboratory tests and radiographs may also be ordered as part of a complete assessment to help tailor treatment for your dog’s condition.

**Medical Treatment**

Heartworms can be treated with a medication that kills the adult heartworms in the heart and lungs. This medication is given by an injection, so your dog will need to stay in the hospital to be monitored during and after the injection procedure. While this medication is effective, there is a possibility that a few adult heartworms will remain.

**Additional Care**

Supportive medications may be administered as necessary on a case-by-case basis. Your veterinarian may also prescribe additional medication following heartworm treatment to kill any immature heartworms that may be in the blood.

**HEARTWORM DISEASE IS A SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM.**

But you can trust your veterinarian to combine their knowledge and skill with modern medicines to provide your dog with the best chance for recovery.

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**VETERINARIAN’S RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Dog’s Name:**

Heartworm treatment can seem like a complicated process. Discuss with your vet the details around key steps, care instructions, and upcoming dates for you and your dog:

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**CHEWABLES**

**INDICATIONS:** For use in dogs to prevent canine heartworm disease by eliminating the tissue-stage of Dracunculus medinensis and heartworm disease (D. immitis) in dogs following infection and for the treatment and control of heartworms (D. immitis) in dogs.

**DOSAGE:** HEARTGARD® Plus (ivermectin/pyrantel) should be administered orally at monthly intervals at the recommended minimum dose level of 6 mg/kg of ivermectin per kilogram (27 mcg/lb) and 5 mg of pyrantel as pamoate salt for dogs weighing 2.27 kg (5 lb) or more. The chewable must be given within 1 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 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 minimizes the opportunity for the development of adult heartworms.

Monthly treatment with HEARTGARD® Plus also provides effective treatment and control of roundworms (Toxocara canis, T. cati), hookworms (Ancylostoma caninum, Uncinaria stenocephala, A. braziliense) and cutaneous larval migrans in dogs. In clinical field trials with HEARTGARD® Plus, the product has shown a wide margin of safety at the recommended dose level in dogs, including pregnant or lactating dogs.

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**SAFETY:** HEARTGARD® Plus has been shown to be biodegradable to HEARTGARD® with respect to the biodegradation of microfilae. The dose regimen of HEARTGARD® Plus and HEARTGARD® are the same with regard to vomiting (6 mg/kg).

Studies with ivermectin indicate that certain dogs of the Collie breed are more sensitive to the effects of ivermectin and may show signs of toxicity. In clinical field trials with HEARTGARD® Plus, vomiting or diarrhea within 24 hours of administration was observed in 5% of treated dogs. The following adverse reactions have been reported following the use of HEARTGARD®: depression/emaciation, vomiting, anorexia, diarrhea, myasthenia, 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 www.fda.gov/reportanimalae.

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

**CAUTION:** Federal 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 heartworms (D. immitis) in dogs following infection, and for the treatment and control of heartworms (D. immitis) in dogs.

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**ADMINISTRATION:** Remove only one chewable at a time from the foil backed blister card! Return the card with the remaining chewable(s) 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. It is suspected that if any of the dose has been lost, releasing is recommended.

**HEARTGARD® Plus** should be given at monthly intervals during the period of the year when mosquitoes (bacterial) potentially carrying infectious heartworm larvae, are active. The initial chewable should be given within 1 month (30 days) after the dog’s first exposure to mosquitoes. The final dose must be given within 1 month (30 days) after the dog’s last exposure to mosquitoes.

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