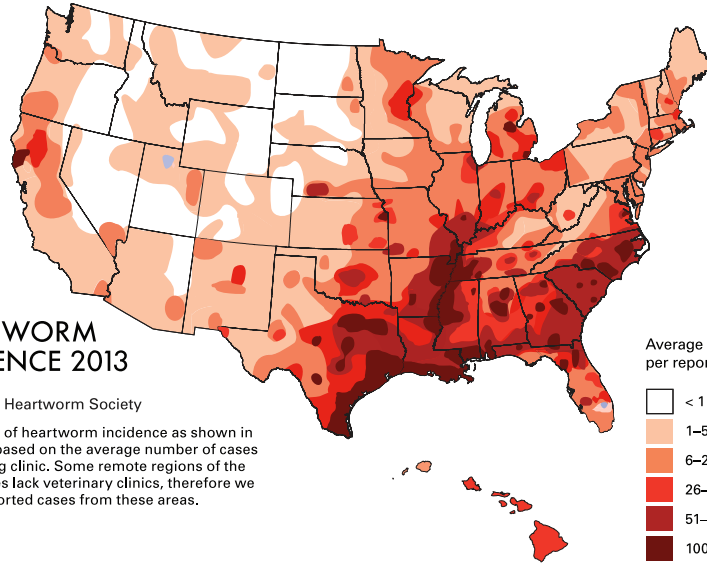




# US CANINE HEARTWORM PREVALENCE MAP

Data on the incidence of feline cases is being studied.



## HEARTWORM INCIDENCE 2013

© American Heartworm Society

The severity of heartworm incidence as shown in this map is based on the average number of cases per reporting clinic. Some remote regions of the United States lack veterinary clinics, therefore we have no reported cases from these areas.

Average number of cases per reporting clinic

- < 1 case/clinic
- 1–5 cases/clinic
- 6–25 cases/clinic
- 26–50 cases/clinic
- 51–99 cases/clinic
- 100+ cases/clinic

## COMMON MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT HEARTWORM DISEASE

**MYTH** Treating heartworm disease is just as easy as preventing it.

**FACT** Treatment for canine heartworm disease is expensive as well as traumatic and risky for the dog. The outcome is unpredictable, and treatment:

- Lasts for 4-6 months.
- Requires multiple injections of an arsenic-based drug.
- Requires that the owner crate and isolate the pet for 6-8 weeks.
- Involves significant cost—up to \$1,000 or more.

**MYTH** The owner will notice signs of infection early enough to take action before the disease becomes serious.

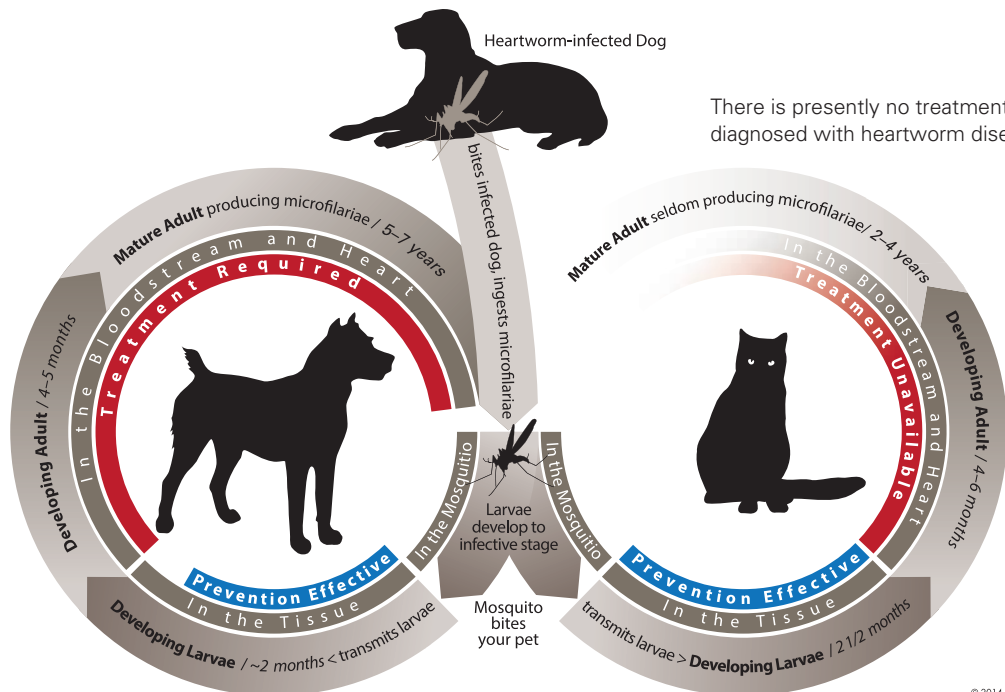
**FACT** In many cases, clinical signs are not noticeable in the early stages of heartworm disease.

**MYTH** Heartworm infection is spread through contact with infected dogs or their feces.

**FACT** Heartworm disease is spread only by mosquitoes, and all dogs are at risk.\*

\*Where Is Heartworm Disease? Available at <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources/incidence-maps>. Accessed May 27, 2015.

## CANINE AND FELINE HEARTWORM LIFE CYCLES



There is presently no treatment for cats diagnosed with heartworm disease.



HEARTWORM PREVENTIVE WAIVER

# PREVENTIVE CARE WAIVER

- I understand that my dog/cat is at risk to contract heartworm disease.
- I understand that if heartworm disease is contracted it could be fatal.
- I understand that treatment for heartworm disease is not guaranteed and can cost up to \$1,000 or more.

My veterinarian's recommendation is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby decline**

**Heartworm test**

**Heartworm preventive**

I hold both veterinarian and staff harmless should illness, injury, or death result from declining the recommended care.

Pet Name \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

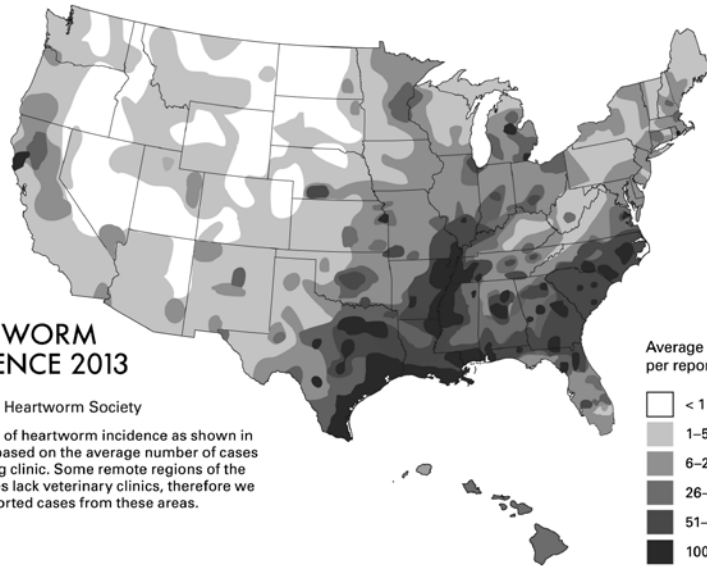
Pet Owner's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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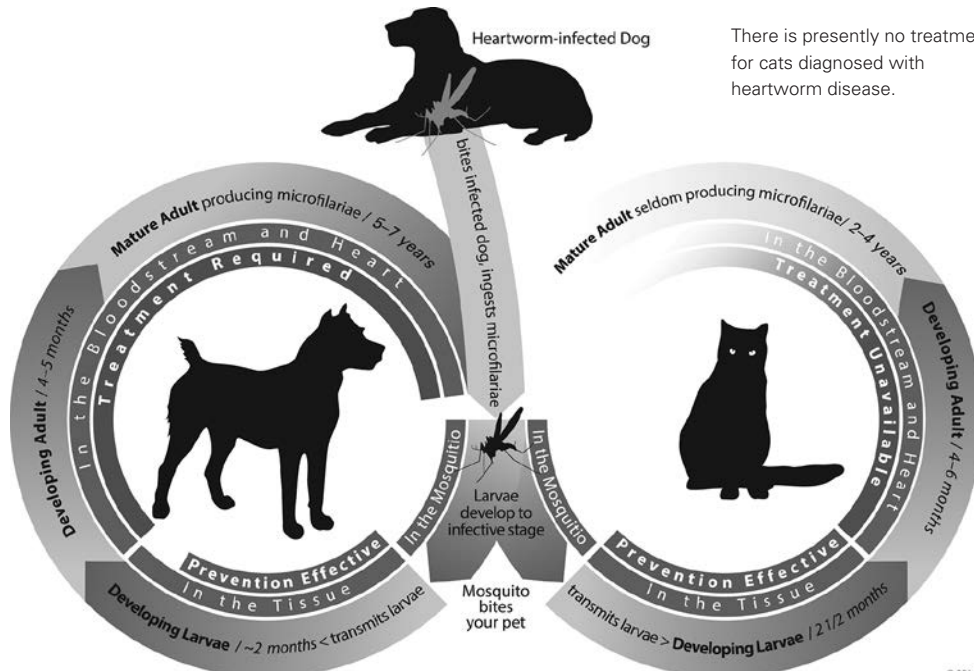
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