



Medford Animal Hospital & Wellness Clinic

45 Jackson Road
Medford, NJ 08055
(609) 654-6855

"It is our goal to cultivate a collaborative veterinary team that strives to offer honest, compassionate, evolving and exceptional patient care while creating trusting relationships and treating both pets and "parents" like family."

Heartworm Disease Acknowledgment

I have been advised and understand that:

- Heartworm Disease is a potentially fatal condition transmitted by infected mosquitoes. The local incidence of this condition continues to increase given the influx of rescue dogs from Heartworm endemic areas.
- To prevent Heartworm larvae from developing into adult worms, it is strongly advised that every dog owner administer a monthly oral preventative or a yearly injectable preventative to his/her pet. Heartworm preventatives are available only by prescription.
- Treating a yard and/or dog with insecticides or parasiticides cannot shield a pet from mosquito bites and thus from infection.
- Treating a dog seasonally does not prevent Heartworm disease.
- Even a single missed dose can result in Heartworm disease.
- In rare instances, Heartworm products can fail.
- Occult (unknown) heartworm infection can result in severe lung damage, caval syndrome (occlusion of a major blood vessel with worms, resulting in life threatening changes in blood flow) and even sudden death.
- In rare instances treating a Heartworm positive dog with preventative can result in a severe allergic reaction.
- In compliance with American Heartworm Society recommendations, the Medford Animal Hospital and Wellness Clinic recommends testing as follows:
 - At 7-8 months of age (this is especially important for dogs imported from the South)
 - At every annual exam
 - 6 and 12 months after any missed doses
- If heartworm testing is declined, it is the policy of Medford Animal Hospital to recommend monthly Heartworm preventative since the benefit of protecting a pet outweighs the risk of withholding therapy.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print/Type Name: _____