



LEESBURG
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

How Do Heartworm Preventatives Work?

Heartworm preventatives can be in the form of a chewable tablet or a spot-on topical medication.

Preventatives work by killing the immature larval stages of the heartworm parasite.

Once immature larvae become adults, they **cannot** be effectively eliminated by preventatives.

Because of this, it is very important that heartworm preventives be administered strictly on schedule each month without interruption.

Administering prevention late or skipping months altogether (like in the colder winter months) can allow immature larvae to molt into the adult stage.

Mosquitoes are the main transmitters of heartworm larvae from one animal to another - **it only takes one bite from an infected mosquito to spread heartworm disease to your pet!**

