

HEARTWORMS

Heartworms are caused by infected mosquitos. It takes 1 infected mosquitos bite to cause heartworms. Heartworms are year round and they are a serious problem that affects indoor dogs just like outdoor dogs. We at CHARMING CHIS do not only pull negative dogs. We believe all dogs deserve that chance of a forever home. Our rescues at CHARMING CHIS are put on heartworm prevention. If they test positive for heartworms we use another form of treatment called the slow-kill method. That is where we administer ivermectin (in the form of a monthly heartworm preventative such as Heartgard or Iverhart) to the positive dog. This treatment is not without risk and should not be undertaken without consulting a veterinarian. Monthly doses of Iverhart prevents the heartworms in your dog from reproducing, preventing your dog from being a source of infection to other dogs. It also prevents your dog from acquiring more adult heartworms. This treatment does not actually kill the adult heartworms, however it does decrease their lifespan; keep in mind the average heartworm can live 6 years, so shortening the life span could still mean your dog could have heartworms for 3 – 4 more years. While the slow-kill method prevents a worsening of infection, it does not prevent any of the secondary heart and lung changes that may eventually lead to heart failure. We now have help from a group of life savers that will sponsor our heartworm treatment on any adopted positive rescue. Treatment will need to be done at BARC ANIMAL SHELTER AND ADOPTIONS on 3200 Carr St. Houston Tx 77026.

All dogs that tested positive for heartworms must be kept on Heartgard or Tri-heart.

All dogs adopted from CHARMING CHIS require new owners to continue heartworm prevention year round and forever.