



# Heartworm Disease and Prevention

St. Michael Veterinary Clinic

## General Information:

Highly effective medication is available to prevent heartworm disease. Mosquito control is certainly helpful but should never be the sole means of prevention.

## Milbemycin Oxime/Praziquantel:

This Milbemycin preparation comes in a chewable form. The second drug, Praziquantel, treats and controls roundworm, whipworm, hookworm and tapeworm intestinal infections. It is given monthly as a heartworm preventative and can be used year-round to protect against the primary intestinal parasites. (INTERCEPTOR PLUS)

## Important Points:

Your dog should be blood tested annually for new exposures to heartworm disease. In geographic areas where mosquitoes are present throughout the year, dogs must be treated year-round to prevent heartworm infection. In central Minnesota we recommend year-round heartworm preventative if used for prevention of intestinal parasites and heartworm disease. This medication kills the larval stage that may be in your pet's bloodstream. It does not prevent them from contracting this early stage, therefore it is important to give consistently.

## Mosquito Control:

- ✓ Screen outdoor kennels, especially in areas where heartworm is prevalent.
- ✓ Keep your pet indoors during the early morning and evening hours, when mosquitoes are most active.
- ✓ Electronic insect killers can be positioned near kennels. Premise sprays are available for treatment of the environment.
- ✓ Mosquito repellents can be used for short periods of exposure. Be sure your pet does not lick off the repellent.