

## Heartworm Testing & Prevention Information

*Thank you for your interest in the Toronto Humane Society's Wellness Services.*

### Heartworm Testing:

We recommend heartworm preventative medication to be given to dogs throughout the entire heartworm season which lasts from June 1<sup>st</sup> until November 1st (or after the first frost). All doses are recommended to be given on the first of the month (makes it easy to remember), or exactly 1 month from the previous dose. Toronto Humane Society carries a range of heartworm, flea and tick prevention products, the product best fit for your pet and your lifestyle will be recommended during your appoint consultation with one of our Veterinarians. Many of these products are multifunctional in that they protect against many different parasites: fleas, ticks, heartworm, ear mites, mange, and some intestinal worms.

Medication can be purchased in individual doses (1 months' worth of protection) or in multi-dose packages (generally for 6 months' worth of protection). After your initial appointment has been completed, medication can be picked up at a later date or shipped, if necessary. Follow up appointments are still scheduled even if you are only interested in purchasing additional doses of prevention to ensure we can service you within a timely fashion and during hours of operation.

### Eligibility to Purchase Heartworm Preventatives *Without* an Examination:

All healthy canines (dogs) **must have completed a heartworm test, with proof of a negative test result, within the last 6 months** (*either completed at Toronto Humane Society, or at another veterinary clinic*) in order to purchase preventative medication. All canines **must also have completed a physical examination within the last year.** All animals are still recommended to have an examination to obtain a current weight, unless medical history from one's veterinarian (within the last month) showing a current weight can be provided at the time of purchase.

### Eligibility to Purchase Heartworm Preventatives *Without* a Valid Test:

**\*Please note for all animals who have not utilized our services within the last year an examination is required.**

*Puppies born after September 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous year or Felines (Cats):*

**Puppies born after September 15<sup>th</sup> (of the previous year) will not require heartworm testing in order to be dispensed Revolution.** They will be required to have their test completed next year in the spring as they were not exposed to the previous mosquito season.

**Felines do not require heartworm testing** as heartworm disease manifests differently in cats in comparison to dogs. The preventative dosage is determined by your dog's/cat's weight.

As puppies/kittens grow rapidly in their first year, we will not prescribe multi-dose packages. Clients must purchase individual doses and bring your puppy/kitten in for a free weigh-ins, in order to accommodate their changing weight. For all other animals we still recommend bringing in for a weight check if medical history cannot be provided to ensure we are providing the correct dose for your animal.