

### **Heartworm Disease Pre-Treatment Plan**

1. If you were prescribed an oral heartworm preventative, please give it today. Oral heartworm preventative should be given every thirty (30) days as prescribed.
2. The goal of delaying treatment is to weaken the adult worms using an antibiotic and a few months of preventative medication. By treating in this way, it helps make the melarsomine dihydrochloride treatment safer and more effective.
  - If your pet was prescribed an antibiotic, please start the medication and give the medication as prescribed until completed.

### **Heartworm (Melarsomine Dihydrochloride) Treatment**

An appointment should be scheduled for treatment thirty (30) days after the completion of the pre-treatment antibiotics as possible. Please call to the office to schedule this appointment.

1. Admission is between 7:30am - 8:00am on the scheduled procedure day.
2. Please do not offer any food after 10:00pm the night before the scheduled procedure day. You may leave a small amount of water down overnight but be sure to pick it up first thing the morning of the scheduled procedure.

### **The melarsomine dihydrochloride heartworm treatment is a multi-visit treatment.**

- The first visit will include a physical, baseline pre-anesthetic blood work panel (looks for signs of anemia and infection, evaluates liver and kidney function, and electrolytes), the first melarsomine dihydrochloride treatment, and a Proheart injection which provides 6-months of heartworm prevention. This is a one-night stay in our hospital.
- The second visit should be scheduled for one (1) month after the initial treatment and is a two-night stay in our hospital. This visit includes a physical and the 2nd and 3rd melarsomine dihydrochloride treatments. If any complications are noted while your pet is here, additional supportive medications may be prescribed.
- To prevent complications, please keep your dog quiet and confined for eight (8) weeks. Please ask us before you allow your pet to resume normal exercise. Call if any problems develop. As worms are destroyed, some dogs may experience a temporary lack of appetite, upset stomach, fever, difficulties with breathing or depression. If these or other signs of discomfort develop, please call us. We will see that your pet gets appropriate care.
- The third visit is a re-check appointment to ensure that your pet is recovering. This visit will consist of a brief physical exam and will need to be scheduled for 1 month after the 2nd visit.
- The fourth and final visit will need to be scheduled for 2 months after the 3rd visit. This visit will consist of a brief physical exam and a heartworm check to ensure that all heartworms have been killed. You will need to purchase additional heartworm preventative at this visit.

**Oral heartworm preventative should be given every 30 days as prescribed.**

**Injectable heartworm prevention should be given every 6 or 12 months.**

**Heartworm screening should be performed yearly.**