



Edgewood Veterinary Tips

by Dr. Kristy McCamy

Heartworm

Heartworm disease is a condition that begins with the bite of a tiny, seemingly harmless little parasite: the mosquito. Although it comes from humble beginnings, heartworm disease is a very serious condition that can render a dog or a cat very seriously ill. Heartworm can, in fact, be fatal. When a dog first becomes infested with heartworms, there are no symptoms, and even a blood test will not show evidence of the parasite. Once an animal is infected, the worms travel through the bloodstream, causing problems in arteries and organs until they arrive in the blood vessels of the lungs and the heart. Advanced heartworm disease symptoms include labored breathing, coughing, vomiting, weight loss, and fatigue after exercise.

If your pet isn't already on heartworm prevention, you should consult your veterinarian about scheduling an exam. Having your pet tested can determine if your pet currently has heartworm disease and if preventives are safe to administer. We can examine your pet for heartworm and, with your help, find a treatment plan. Located at **1055 Grass Valley Hwy.**, we urge you to stay alert for symptoms and behavior indicative of symptoms mentioned in today's column. Call us at 530.885.1919 to schedule an appointment for a checkup. *Consider joining our family.*

P.S. Our pets should be on heartworm preventive all year round, as mosquitos can come out anytime of the year.



1055 Grass Valley Hwy.
Auburn
530-885-1919