

## Feline Heartworm Disease A Silent Killer

Heartworms are a blood parasite spread from one animal to another by mosquitoes. Cats, dogs and other mammals can be infected.

Many cats carrying heartworms will appear normal. Others develop mild to severe coughs, sporadic vomiting, or trouble breathing. Many other diseases have similar symptoms making it difficult to diagnose feline heartworm disease.

Unfortunately, cats cannot be safely treated for this dangerous parasite. Because cats are not the natural host, heartworm testing is not accurate enough to make routine testing practical.

Signs of heartworm disease vary in cats. Some cats have a sudden onset of respiratory collapse and death. Cats that die of heartworm disease may appear normal one hour before death.

There are products available for heartworm prevention in cats, please ask us for more information if interested.