

HEARTWORM AWARENESS

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition caused by a parasitic worm that lives in the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels of greyhounds. It can lead to severe lung disease, heart failure, and damage to other organs.

What is heartworm?

- Heartworm is a parasite transmitted by mosquitoes.
- Mosquitoes pick up heartworm larvae when feeding on infected dogs and then spread the larvae to other pets.
- Dogs are the natural host, where heartworms mature, reproduce, and cause significant damage.

Why prevention matters

- Heartworm disease can be fatal if untreated.
- Early stages often show no symptoms, making prevention critical.
- Common signs in greyhounds include coughing, tiring quickly, fainting, weight loss, and decreased appetite.
- Heartworm larvae can mature in as little as 51 days, after which prevention is ineffective.

How to prevent heartworm

- Prevention is easy and highly effective with the right program.
- Options include monthly chewable tablets, topical treatments, and yearly injections.
- Strictly following the prevention program is essential.
- Consult your veterinarian to choose the best prevention method for your greyhound's lifestyle and risk.



Heartworm is found throughout Australia, so protecting your greyhound is vital.

- Talk to your veterinarian about heartworm prevention.
- Keep up with regular testing and preventive treatments year-round.
- Recognise the signs and seek veterinary care if you suspect heartworm disease.