

## **Heartworm Treatment Protocol (5/2010)**

- 1) Positive Heartworm Antigen Test on routine screening
- 2) Adult/Senior Wellness Profile, Thoracic radiographs (2 view), Microfilaria test, Fecal exam if not done within last 6 months.
- 3) Begin therapy with Heartgard or Interceptor for 8 weeks prior to Immiticide treatment. Begin one month course of doxycycline at 10 mg/kg BID for 4 weeks.

Note: Pet's activity becomes restricted from this point until successful therapy completed.

Note: If pet is microfilaria positive, first dose of HWP is given in clinic after pre-treatment with an anaphylactic dose diphenhydramine and dexamethasone and pet is observed throughout the day.

- 4) Immiticide Treatment Phase I at 8 weeks following start of heartworm preventative.

Note: Restriction of pet's activity most critical for one month after Steps 6 & 7

- 5) PE two weeks after Immiticide Treatment Phase I
- 6) Immiticide Therapy Phase II A & B (1 month after Step 6)
- 7) PE two weeks after Immiticide Therapy Phase II A & B
- 8) PE four weeks after Immiticide Therapy Phase II A & B
- 9) 6 months after Immiticide Treatment Phase I, Heartworm Antigen Test (AND Microfilaria Test if pet had been MF +)