Canine Heartworm Life Cycle

Canine heartworm disease is transmitted by mosquitos that have fed on infected animals.



First stage (L1) heartworm larvae (Microfilariae) develop inside the mosquito to stage 3 (L3), at which point they are considered infective.

Adult heartworms die, causing pulmonary signs and lesions.

Infected mosquito bites your dog, depositing L3 larvae.

L5 larvae mature to adults in the lungs and heart.

L3 larvae develop into L4 larvae.

L5 larvae arrive in the heart and are carried to

L4 larvae develop to L5 during migration to the heart.

90+

Many L5 larvae die, causing pulmonary signs and lesions.

the lungs.

Signs of Heartworm Disease in Dogs

- Coughing
 Vomiting
- · Lethargy · Difficulty breathing
- · Collapse · Weight loss
- · Sudden death



NOT A COMPLETE LIST. **CONSULT YOUR** VETERINARIAN.