

Canine Heartworm Guidelines

Pet Status	Puppy (< 7 months of age)	Adult (≥ 7 months)
≤ 6-week lapse in preventive‡	None†	None†
6-week to 7-month lapse	None†	Ag*
Lapse of any duration	None†	Mf*Ag*
No preventive, questionable compliance or unknown history (≥ 7 months)	NA†	Mf*Ag*
Current at annual visit or with lapse > 48 hours*	None†	Mf*Ag*
Preventive current at annual visit	None†	Ag*
Change in preventive‡	None†	Ag**

‡ ivermectin, milbemycin, moxidectin, selamectin

† Test with Ag test at annual visit or if clinical signs; chart assumes status of all dogs of adequate age are on macrolide at time of visit.

* Test immediately if onset of lapse ≥ 7 months and again at next annual visit.

**For medical and legal reasons, test with Ag test at 4 months and 9 months after change in preventive. See www.heartwormsociety.org for detailed explanation.

Ag = antigen test

Mf = microfilaria test (modified Knott test, Millipore filter test, direct smear or capillary tub examination)

NA = not applicable