



The Importance of Preventatives

Flea, tick, and heartworm prevention is important for dogs and cats. Fleas and ticks carry many serious diseases, some of which can be transmitted to pets and humans (the plague, flea-allergy dermatitis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Lyme Disease, Ehrlichiosis, etc.). Flea and tick prevention is beneficial for pets who frequent the outdoors, especially in areas where wildlife is prevalent. Indoor pets are also susceptible to flea, tick, and heartworm infestations.

Heartworms are spread to pets through the bite of an infected mosquito and can cause deadly consequences. It is a common myth that heartworms are not present in drier, arid environments. Although heartworm disease is less prevalent in these desert regions, pets can still contract the condition in these areas, especially when dogs and cats move into arid states from humid environments. Canines are more likely to develop heartworm disease, but cats are also susceptible. Prevention of heartworm disease is much more cost-effective than the treatment of the disease. Before placing your dog on a heartworm preventative, a quick in-house blood test will be performed to screen for a potential existing heartworm infection. If your dog is already on a heartworm preventative, it is recommended that he/she have a yearly heartworm test performed to help ensure that the medication is working correctly, especially if monthly doses have been missed or given late. There are many flea, tick, and heartworm preventatives available, some of which come in convenient combination products. Please see below for a list of recommended preventative medications carried in-house at Ely Veterinary Care (EVC) or available through our online pharmacy:

Recommended Preventatives:

- **Canines:**
 - For Heartworm Prevention:
 - **Heartgard Plus** – a monthly beef-flavored chew. It also protects against hookworms and roundworms. Can be given to dogs 6 weeks of age or older. Heartworm test needed for puppies over 6 months old prior to prescription authorization.
 - For Flea and Tick Prevention:
 - **NexGard** – monthly beef-flavored chew. NexGard kills fleas within 8 hours and ticks within 48 hours. Can be given to dogs 8 weeks of age or older. Dogs must weigh at least 4 lbs.
 - Combination Flea, Tick, and Heartworm Prevention:



- **Simparica Trio** – monthly chew. It also protects against hookworms and roundworms. Can be given to dogs 8 weeks of age or older. Dogs must weigh at least 2.8 lbs.
- **Felines:**
 - Combination Flea, Tick, and Heartworm Prevention:
 - **Revolution Plus** – monthly topical application. It also protects against hookworms, roundworms, and ear mites. Can be given to kittens 8 weeks of age or older. Cats must weigh at least 2.8 lbs.

*For more information regarding diseases transmitted by fleas, please see this CDC link:
<https://www.cdc.gov/fleas/diseases.html>

*For more information regarding diseases transmitted by ticks, please see this CDC link:
<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/diseases/index.html>

*For more information regarding heartworm disease transmission and prevalence, please see this American Heartworm Society link: <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources/heartworm-basics>

*For ordering your pet's flea, tick, and heartworm preventatives, please see our online pharmacy link: <https://elyvetcarepllc.securevetsource.com/index.pml>