

"Heartworm Prevention"

Question: *My veterinarian has recently started promoting monthly heartworm preventive tablets for my cat. I've also heard that the heartworm medicine used long term may be a greater risk to my cat's health. What should I do?*

Answer: *Heartworm disease is a serious but preventable condition. Whether or not your cat belongs on preventive medication depends a lot on the incidence in your area. We're not presently aware of any literature that notes serious risks or side effects of the preventive medicine. However, your veterinarian will take into account any other problems your cat has before prescribing the drug for your cat. Healthy kidneys and normal liver functions are essential in metabolizing most medications. For both dogs and cats, a heartworm blood test must be done before any preventive medications are given.*