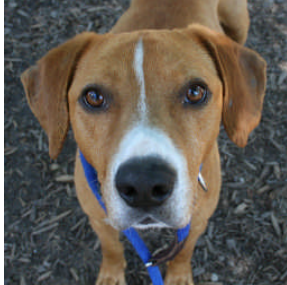


Have a Heart for Heartworms

Consider adopting a heartworm positive dog from Pet Helpers.

Heartworm positive dogs are very adoptable dogs at Pet Helpers. **Expenses associated with a dog's heartworm treatments are covered by Pet Helpers while you foster-to-adopt** a lucky canine like Stoney or Bruce.



Stoney

Heartworms, transmitted from animal to animal by mosquitoes, are parasitic worms that live in the heart, arteries, and lungs of infected animals. Dozens of worms, which can grow up to 14 inches in length, may live in one dog, and the disease can be fatal. Both dogs and cats can get heartworms, though the problem is more common in canines. Heartworm positive dogs cannot transmit the disease to other dogs.

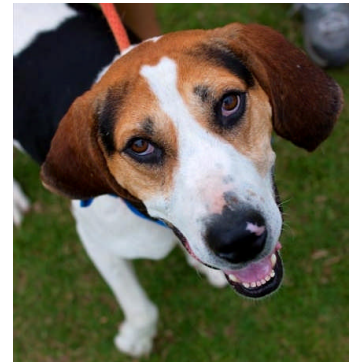
Heartworm treatments at Pet Helpers are administered according to the guidelines of the American Heartworm Society and have a very high success rate. Dogs begin treatment with oral medication while living at the shelter. Next, Pet Helpers veterinarians administer a series of three injections over a period of eight weeks, followed by six weeks of leash rest. When a family chooses to bring a heartworm positive dog into their home, the injections can begin. Because the dog **must be kept calm** during the treatment period, the **injections are best done when the animal can recover in a home environment**, far away from the stresses of shelter life. Heartworm positive dogs in the shelter **must wait until they are chosen** to begin their injections.

Pick Me!

Come and meet one of Pet Helpers' available heartworm positive dogs. Give him or her forever home and a precious chance to finish the treatment that will make them healthy again!

Does My Dog Have Heartworms?

Heartworm positive dogs can exhibit symptoms such as labored breathing, coughing, vomiting, weight loss, fatigue, and ultimately may be fatal. Some animals show **no symptoms** at all until the late stages of infection. Heartworms can be **diagnosed by a blood test at your veterinarian's office**.



Bruce

Hot, humid regions, like the Lowcountry, are typically home to an abundance of mosquitoes and therefore see many cases of heartworms. Charleston has a particularly high incidence of heartworms. This problem is **100% preventable** with inexpensive monthly tablets. **This tablet must be given year-round**. Please protect your pet.

Sponsor a Heartworm Positive Dog

On average, Pet Helpers spends about \$500 to treat a case of heartworms. We welcome any donations to help offset the cost of these expensive, life-saving treatments. Designate your donation for the **Have a Heart for Heartworms Fund**.