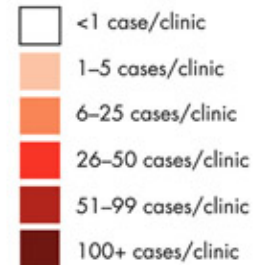


**OVER 1,000,000  
PETS IN THE U.S. ARE  
THOUGHT TO BE  
INFECTED WITH  
HEARTWORMS <sup>1</sup>**

Average number of cases  
per reporting clinic



## 2019 HEARTWORM INCIDENCE



© American Heartworm Society The severity of heartworm incidence as shown in this map is based on the average number of cases per reporting clinic. Some remote regions of the United States lack veterinary clinics, therefore we have no reported cases from these areas.



## FRIDAY FACTS FROM BARRIO DOGS

### ► HEARTWORMS

#### **PROTECT YOUR PET BY LEARNING MORE ABOUT HEARTWORMS AND HEARTWORM DISEASE:**

- Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes. Weather events that bring more mosquitoes (heavy rains, flooding, hurricanes) increase the risk of heartworm infection.
- The presence of a heartworm positive dog in your neighborhood increases the chances your dog will be bitten by an infected mosquito.
- Heartworm proteins take at least five months to show up in a dog's blood stream after infection.
- Signs of heartworm disease include a mild persistent cough, reluctance to exercise, fatigue after moderate activity, decreased appetite, and weight loss. As the disease progresses, animals may develop heart failure and the appearance of a swollen belly due to excess fluid in the abdomen.
- Houston, with its rainy climate and many homeless animals, is a prime location for heartworm infections.

#### **PREVENTION IS THE BEST OPTION!**

- Give your pet monthly heartworm preventatives. Even dogs that spend most of their time indoors need monthly preventatives.
- Puppies can be started on a heartworm preventive as early as 8 weeks of age. Check product packaging for instructions and dosage.
- Other animals like cats and ferrets can also get infected; check with your vet for preventives.
- Treatment is available for dogs who get infected but it can be expensive, difficult for the dog, and may not work.
- Remember, prevention is always the best option!

(1) <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/newsroom/in-the-news/78-new-survey-finds-heartworm-infection-nationwide>

TO LEARN MORE, GO TO [WWW.HEARTWORMSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.HEARTWORMSOCIETY.ORG)