



# The Lancaster Kennel Club

## - Newsletter -

### President's Message:

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As we enter the final push for 2014, we have four up-coming events. Our first event is the annual picnic, to be held on Sunday, August 3, at Amos Herr Park. Debby Radanovic is busily preparing some FUN GAMES again for this year and is offering a prize for the best homemade dish – whether it be a main course, vegetable, or dessert. So put on your creative hats. You will need to get your reservation to her by August 1 so we have enough hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone. Her email address is Debby Radanovic: [gr179@comcast.net](mailto:gr179@comcast.net)

Also, in case you missed my earlier email bulletin, Patti Means has returned with the new puppy and plans to bring it to the picnic. Other new arrivals to be debuted at the picnic are two Cairn puppies which Marcia and Dan will be bringing.

The second event is our annual Match Show on Sunday, August 31, 2014. This event will also be held at the Amos Herr Park, with our rings to be set up behind the pavilion. Entrance to the park is west of the light at Nissley Road, past the basketball courts. We are waiting for confirmation from Enck's Catering that their food tent will be up and ready to serve your lunch needs.

Our third event is the Responsible Dog Owners Day in conjunction with the Amos Herr Park Country Fair, to be held on Sunday, September 21, with a rain date of September 28. Debby Radanovic and her committee are busy putting together a schedule of events which we hope to expand with more dog sport demonstrations. We are currently looking for people to do freestyle, disc dog, and treiball. If you have started training in any of these events and would like to help out by showing that everyone starts as a "beginner", Debby would welcome hearing from you. We will also be offering \$20.00 micro-chipping at the beginning of the day and the Red Rose K9 Search and Rescue team will be on hand. We would also like to invite you to participate in our mini-dog show/Meet the Breeds which will be held in the afternoon. Hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the fair.

Finally on the event calendar is our Agility Trial on September 27-28 at In the Net. Mary Lou Strayer and her committee are looking for volunteers to make this event run smoothly. Please contact Cindy Erb-Starkey at [cjestarkey@msn.com](mailto:cjestarkey@msn.com) or 717.939.9912 to volunteer.

Two other quick reminders to you, our October membership meeting will be held Wednesday October 8 at the Liederkrantz with a DINNER MEETING starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by a presentation by Peaceful Pet Passage on estate planning for your pets. More details are below in this issue of the newsletter. In the meantime, we'll see you at the picnic. Have a safe and healthy summer.

Ann B.

Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.  
General Membership Meeting & Annual Awards Banquet & Election  
June 11, 2014  
Conestoga Country Club, Lancaster, PA

Call to Order: 7:00 PM – Ann Byrne, President

1. **Welcome** – given by Ann Byrne.
2. **Secretary's report:** Tammy Selka – Minutes were handed out. Motion to accept as printed by Deb Eckert second by Sue Bullitt. Motion carried. Thank you cards received from judges at Celtic Classic. Received closeout paperwork from AKC for May show.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Sue Bullitt – Financial statements and balance sheets distributed for April & May. Motion to accept Tammy Selka second Karen Simpson. Motion carried.
4. **AKC Delegate report** – Carolyn Vack – Delegates meeting was just attended. Reported on facebook activities. Being used frequently. LKC should get on Facebook. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Agility. Bob McKowen received an award for starting agility. 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rally. PAC donations were up. Every club member should be donating.
5. **Committee Reports** – as follows:
  - a. **Celtic Classic** – Tammy Selka – Each club netted approx. \$8000. Fairgrounds raised prices. Working on next year's judges. Tammy needs help for next year or someone else to chair. She will gladly assist anyone interested in learning the ropes. Decided we need to raise price of entry.
  - b. **Shop for a Cause** – Deb Eckert – Deb presented SAR with the \$3000 check that we were awarded at the Shop for a Cause.
  - c. **Red Rose Classic** – Deb Bush & Mary Hartman – Looks like show is making some money this year. Great day with lots of thank yous. Judges suggestions needed for next year. Mary & Deb decided they will continue as Co-Chairs for next year.
  - d. **Picnic** – Deb Radanovic – August 3, Amos Herr Park, Landisville. Giving prize for most original dish.
  - e. **RDOD** – September 21, Amos Herr Park, Landisville. 11am-4pm. Rain date 9/28. Landisville Animal Hospital will be microchipping for us. Flyball, agility, conformation and meet the breeds. Dave Martin volunteered to advertise on local media.
  - f. **Match Show** – Kim Hess – Sun., Aug. 31, Amos Herr Park at Pavillion. Working on all details.
  - g. **Agility** – Mary Lou Strayer – Application has been submitted. Premium list submitted to website. September 27-28. Need Volunteers. Husband and wife team judging this year. Pete Byrne is emergency response chair. Committee meeting being held real soon.
6. **Unfinished Business** – None
7. **New Business** – None
8. **Awards Handed out. Congratulations to all those that titled their dogs this year.**
9. **Election of Board and Officers** – New Officers are President, Ann Byrne, Vice-President, Tammy Selka, Secretary, Gail Hillard, Treasurer, Kim Hess. New Board members at large – Mary Hartman, MaryLou Strayer and Deb Radanovic. Congratulations to all. Next BOD meeting is July 7 and is a combined meeting of both old and new board and officers.
10. **Adjournment** – 8:30 PM Tammy Selka & Deb Radanovic

**Submitted by Tammy Selka, Secretary**

Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
July 7, 2014  
722 S. Chiques Rd., Manheim, PA

**Call to Order: 7:03 PM – Ann Byrne – President**

**Board members in attendance** – Deb Bush, Deb Eckert, Cindy Erb-Starkey, Kim Hess, Tammy Selka, Sue Bullitt, Ann Byrne, Lori Wright & RainBear Mahoney.

**Incoming Board & Officers in attendance** – Deb Radanovic, Mary Hartman, Mary Lou Strayer & Gail Hillard

**Guests** - Jim Wright & Joy Ellwanger

11. **Secretary's report** – Tammy Selka
  - a. **Minutes** - The minutes from the previous Board meeting were handed out at the meeting. Motion to accept as printed Sue Bullitt second Deb Bush. Motion carried.
  - b. **Correspondence** - American Cancer Society Bark for Life program information. Motion by Tammy Selka to participate in Bark for Life as a Leader of the Pack sponsor for \$500.00 on September 27, second by Deb Eckert. Motion carried with 1 opposed.
12. **Treasurer's report** – Sue Bullitt
  - a. Income & Expense reports for May & June 2014 were handed out. Motion to accept by Deb Bush second by Cindy Erb-Starkey. Motion carried.
  - b. Breakdown of profit & loss for Red Rose handed out. Red Rose made net profit of \$4,226.
  - c. Upgrading Quickbooks before transfer to new Treasurer
13. **AKC Delegate report** – No report.
14. **Committee Reports** – as follows:
  - a. **Red Rose Classic** – Mary Hartman and Deb Bush will chair again next year. Made a good profit on show will be doing paperwork for next year soon.
  - b. **Picnic** – Sun. Aug 3, Amos Herr Park, 12:00 PM. Deb R. will be emailing information soon. Giving a prize for most creative dish.
  - c. **RDOD** – Sept 21, 11-4PM, Amos Herr Park. Complete K9 participating with us. Introducing new SAR puppy, maybe a disc dog demo. CGC testing and microchipping again this year. Motion by Lori W second by Sue Bullitt to advertise in flyer for event day through park association cost of \$150.00. Motion carried.
  - d. **Match Show** – Sun. Aug 31 at Amos Herr Park. Judges being contacted. Looking for food truck maybe able to get one that will be at the park for event on Monday. Alexis offered to do a jr's clinic at the match show.
  - e. **Agility** – Committee meeting was held. Vendors will be charged \$75 with no refund. In the net raised the price \$100.00. Everything being well planned out.
  - f. **Seminars** – Dr. Jean Dodds will only do a webinar. Will be available next year. Lori working on getting seminar together for next year. Pet First Aid through Red Cross is expensive. Researching other avenues. October General Meeting will be a program on Planning for loss of pets.
  - g. **Celtic Classic** - \$8100 net profit this year. Tammy gave BOD a letter of resignation as chair to CC. Paperwork has been started for 2015. Judges are being contracted for 2015.
15. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. **Newsletter** – RainBear doing newsletter. Needs information.

- b. **Facebook** – Motion by Sue Bullitt second by Lori Wright to have Danna & RainBear put the club up on Facebook and moderate. Motion carried.

(Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting (continued))

16. **New Business:**

- a. **New member** – Motion by Lori Wright second by Deb Bush to send Sandi Maxwell to membership for approval. Motion carried.
- b. **Dues Renewal** – 2014-2015 dues renewals were mailed out 7/6/14. Tammy mentioned that dues renewals and the extension to October is not making sense. The Roster should be for our fiscal year since AKC needs that information and they expect it when our fiscal year starts. Tammy suggested that starting in 2014 renewals should be mailed out in April and due by June 30 at latest. This way the roster can be printed and handed out at the beginning of the fiscal year. Board agreed and made as new policy.
- c. **K9 Cruise** – They are needing an email address to send out information. Would like an AKC affiliated club in the address so that people don't feel they are getting junk mail. BOD said not a problem that they should call their provider and set up an email address like LKC@their domain.
- d. **Scholarshiips** – Joy handed out her recommendations for this years recipients. Received 4 applications for Vet school and 9 for Vet Tech. Motion by Tammy Selka second by Lori Wright to up the 2015 scholarship amounts to \$4000 for Vet School and 2 - \$1500 Vet Techs. Motion carried. Discussed the amount that the LKC has given throughout the years. Also discussed that we need to advertise this somehow in the Lancaster newspaper.

17. **Adjournment: at 8:41 PM**

Submitted by Tammy Selka, Secretary LKC

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**Co-Editor's Message:**

Thanks to each of you for your submissions and thoughts for the 2014 Newsletter. We will continue to do our best to find information we think will be of interest to each of you. Thanks to Co-Editors RainBear Mahoney and Bradley Frisbee for their ferocious, and continually energized, editorial skills ... which enable us to keep this Newsletter organized and moving along expediently. Hoping each of you and your dogs are staying cool during this warmer weather we have been experiencing (which we were all praying for this last winter) ! ☺ Please remember to send us interesting articles you feel your fellow club members might enjoy, show brags, and any suggestions for our upcoming issues (BBrun98819@aol.com). Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming 2014 Events !

Barry Brunner

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**Treasurer's Report:** - The Treasurer reports will continue to be in the Members Only area.

## **SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SELECTED**

The Scholarship Committee has selected one Veterinary Student and two Veterinary Technician Students to be the recipients of the Lancaster Kennel Club scholarships.

The Veterinary School student is Stephanie Milliken who is attending the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia with a graduation date of May 2015. Stephanie matriculated from Penn State University in May 2011 with a BS in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. She has worked the past five summers at Lititz Veterinary Clinic. Her permanent residence is in Lititz.

The two Veterinary Technician recipients are Megan Zelenak who is attending Harcum College and Shannon Tragis who is attending York Technical Institute.

Megan is a second year student at Harcum College and will be going into practicum in Fall 2015 at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She has worked for four years at the Palmyra Animal Clinic and is currently shadowing at Valley Animal Hospital. Her permanent residence is in Palmyra.

Shannon attends YTI and expects to graduate in May 2015 and was previously enrolled in the Vet Tech program at Penn Foster College. She is currently employed as a Pet Technician at Playful Pups Retreat. Shannon lives in Lancaster with her husband and dogs.

Congratulations to all three scholarship winners. Did you know that the Lancaster Kennel Club has awarded over \$75,000 in scholarships to Central Pennsylvania residents to further their careers.

## **2014 Schedule of Events - Continued**

August:

8/03 – LKC Annual Picnic – Amos Herr Park

8/31 – LKC Match Show – Amos Herr Park

September:

9/21 – Responsible Dog Owners Day – Amos Herr Park

9/27-28 – Agility Trial – In the Net/Palmyra

**A full listing of show events can be found at**

1. AKC <http://www.akc.org/events/search/index.cfm>
2. Rau Dog Shows <http://www.raudogshows.com>
3. MBF <http://www.infodog.com>

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## Make Sure Your Pets Are Always Cared For And Remembered Forever

### Make sure your pets are cared for by people you trust

Some pet owners never consider who will care for their furry friends after they die or if they become disabled or seriously ill. Many assume that a relative or good friend will step up to the task.

That's an unwise assumption on the owner's part.

Every year, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) takes in a number of pets whose owners passed away. Usually a family member or neighbor drops the animals off. Most apologize and say that their loved one or friend made no plans. Once cherished and loved, suddenly these animals have no home. Many will likely be euthanized.

Here's the good news- **A little planning today can help your pets avoid a similar fate!**

### Ensure your pets are always handled with dignity

Learn about your options for in-home euthanasia, private and memorial cremation, burial and memorialization. Know the questions to ask to protect yourself and your pet, so you can make decisions at a time when emotions aren't running high.



## Join THE LAW OFFICE OF RACHEL THIESSEN and PEACEFUL PET PASSAGE for a free information session

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Lancaster Liederkrantz: 722 South Chiques Road, Manheim PA 17545

Meeting begins at 7pm

RSVP to Ann Byrne @ [albyrne@verizon.net](mailto:albyrne@verizon.net) or 717.393.6700

GUESTS ARE WELCOME



## ARTICLE 1 - How to Teach Your Dog to Swim (And Love It, Too!)

Author, American Kennel Club

**Start by showing your dog how to enter and exit.** Use a small children's pool to introduce your dog to the water. While on leash toss a special toy into the water. If she is still reluctant you can take a high-value treat and lure her in, placing the treat by her nose and praising and rewarding for any attempt to step into the water. If it is a small dog who can't step over the sidewall, provide a way for the dog to get out of the pool.

**Find a quiet, clean body of water without currents.** It should have a gentle slope for ease of entry and exit and not a steep drop. Be prepared to join your dog in the water and bring a favorite toy. If teaching in a pool there must be steps leading into the water. Enter the water first and, once stable and facing the dog, patiently encourage her to descend the steps as done with the wading-pool example above.

If your dog is cautious about entering the water, **spend some time on shore and shallow areas** and praise and treat with every step in the right direction. Take your time and be patient. It may take several visits. Also, recognize that some dogs will never be at ease in water, and may prefer games on solid ground.

**Consider using a life jacket** to help reluctant swimmers. It will add buoyancy and create a bridge as they test their water skills. Acclimate your dog to the jacket in short sessions over the course of a week, putting it on and treating her for wearing it.

**Working with a partner or a friendly dog** who loves the water can encourage your dog to relax and venture further.

**Go pro.** Once your dog gets the hang of swimming, consider doing a water sport with him. As of June, you can earn an AKC title for your dog in the sport of dock diving, which makes a competitive sport out of taking a long leap off a pier into a body of water. For more about dock diving, see the most recent issue of [AKC Family Dog](#).

If you are unsure about doing any of this, consult a training professional. Before beginning any exercise program with your dog, be sure to consult with your veterinarian.



## ARTICLE 2 - Start and Exercise Regiment for Your Dog

Author, Purebred Breeders LLC

- BY [MARCUS HASKINS](#)
- IN [DOG HEALTH](#) · [DOG SPORTS](#) · [DOG TRAINING](#) · [NEWS](#)
- — 13 AUG, 2012

All dogs need exercise. However, there a number of factors that will affect the type, frequency, and amount of exercise each dog receives. But with so many different dog types how can you be sure of the type of exercise that might be right for your dog? Just like people, dog breeds come with different personalities, some are friendly and energetic, for example, while others are good watchdogs and highly intelligent. In fact, some dogs are not suited for more than a daily walk. Therefore, as a dog owner you cannot push your little pooch or your mighty dog into a work out. This is why Purebred Breeders LLC want you to get to know your dog in a way that makes it easy to match the breed with the right exercise.

### **Get Professional Advice First**

Purebred Breeders LLC encourages you to visit your dog's veterinarian before starting a routine. Making sure your pooch is healthy and happy is definitely a number one priority. You should then check your four-legged friend's social and physical strengths. Once you have determined that your pup is healthy enough, you can begin. Your vet can also make recommendations as to the best way to start a new exercise regimen.

### **Height vs. Might**

Our team at Purebred Breeders LLC knows that each dog is different, so any exercise regime has to be matched to the type of dog breed you have. Two groups in particular are important to note: dogs with long backs and short legs as well as dogs with short faces. These types of dogs are often "exercise-intolerant", may have breathing difficulties or have physical anomalies that make them fragile.

If your dog is mixed, determine his needs based on his dominant breed background. This will be more beneficial to your dog. There are many groups in which dogs can be placed, some may need a good number of exercises such as the Herding group e.g. Collie, while other groups may get enough exercise on their own such as the Terriers, Watchdogs (Rottweilers and Mastiffs etc.) and toy dogs.

The Hound group on the other hand is quite tricky since they were bred to be sporting dogs, so a daily walk and a twice-a-week rigorous work out should suit them fine. Surprisingly, there is a group for the non-sporting dogs and any dog that did not fit into the groups mentioned above that would probably end up here. Purebred Breeders LLC therefore feels it is important to learn as much as you can about your breed's tendencies independent of his or her personal traits.

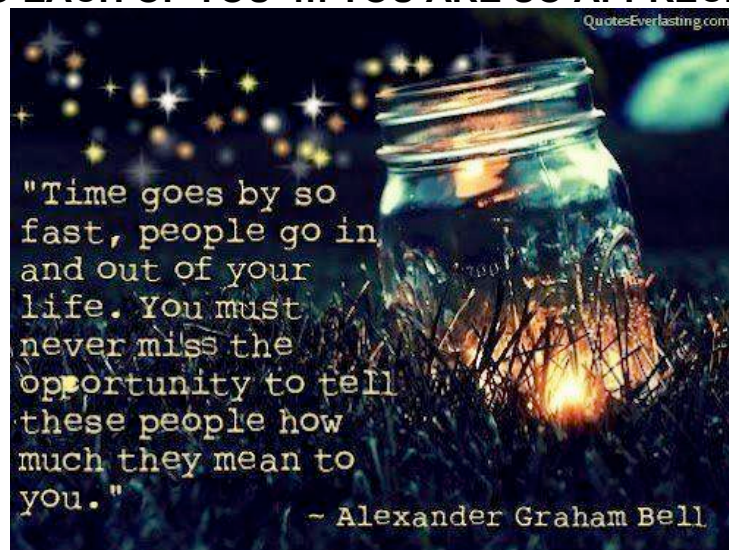


### Heart Pounding Activities

Purebred Breeders LLC also wants you to have fun with your dog so do not just focus on the technical side of things, after all “a dog is a man’s best friend” and canines love to have fun! Luckily, the exercises for your furry little friend are almost endless. Some activities include jogging, fetching (dogs love to fetch- great for retriever type dogs but is not a good idea for dogs with long backs, since they are prone to back injuries), playing with other dogs in a park is a good way to socialize for both you and your pet. Swimming is another great activity especially for retrievers. Just be creative and your pet will be grateful for it.

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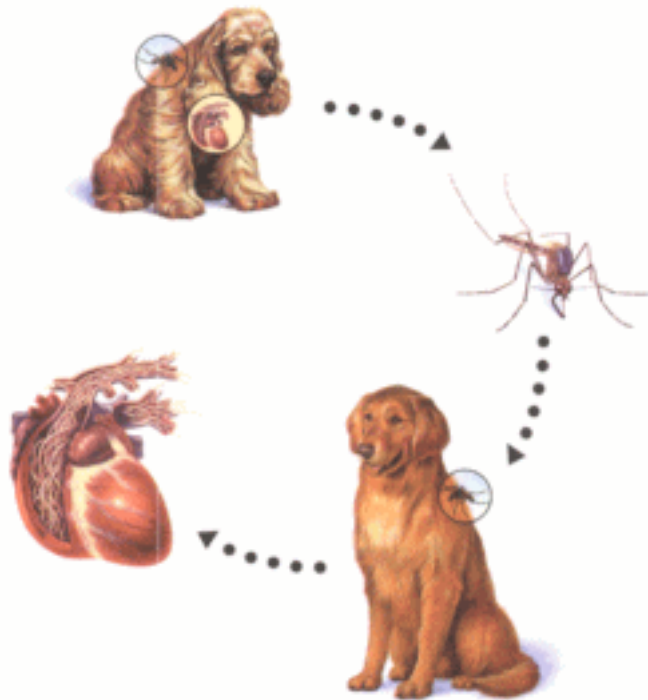
**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO VOLUNTEERED  
THEIR TIME TO HELP WITH VARIOUS EVENTS THROUGHOUT  
THIS PART OF 2014 !!! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING OUR  
MEMBERS WHO CAN HELP WITH OUR UPCOMING 2014 EVENTS !!  
... THANKS TO EACH OF YOU ... YOU ARE SO APPRECIATED ...**



### Article3 Heartworm Medication Part 1: Truths, Omissions and Profits

by Jan Rasmusen in Holistic Care

**Heartworms are Spread by Mosquitoes. Heartworm Meds are Spread by Fear.**



It's getting warmer outside — time for sellers of heartworm medications to start scaring you to death. Television and print ads, which used to push meds only during warm summer months, now urge you to keep your dog on medication year round. The question is: why the change?

[Drs. David Knight and James Lok](#) of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, addressing recommendations for year round meds, warned: “The practice of some veterinarians to continuously prescribe monthly chemoprophylaxis exaggerates the actual risk of heartworm transmission in most parts of the country and unnecessarily increases the cost of protection to their clients.”

So, is the change to year round meds all about money? Or is there more to this story?

Heartworm “prevention” is a major health decision for pet parents *and* multi-billion dollar Big Business for drug companies, veterinarians, testing laboratories and on-line sellers of medication. When health intersects money, there's a lot of room for conflict of interest. Only by understanding the business aspects and the truth about heartworm transmission can you make an informed decision about if, how and when to protect your dog with commercial products.

While everyone agrees that heartworm infestations can be life-threatening, infestation is far from inevitable nor is it the immutable death sentence advertisers would have you believe. (Otherwise, all dogs and cats not on meds would die of infestation. But they don't.)

Every holistic vet I've consulted had concerns about the long-term safety of heartworm *medications*. Well-known vet, author and columnist Martin Goldstein wrote in his wonderful book *The Nature of Animal Healing* that he sees heartworms as less epidemic than the “disease-causing toxicity” of heartworm medicine.

[Dr. Jeff Levy](#), vet and homeopath, concluded “that it was not the heartworms that caused disease, but the other factors that damaged the dogs' health to the point that they could no longer compensate for an otherwise tolerable parasite load.” Those factors include, “... being

vaccinated yearly, eating commercial dog food, and getting suppressive drug treatment for other symptoms....”

Heartworm meds do not, by the way, prevent heartworms. They are poisons that *kill* heartworm larvae (called microfilariae) contracted during the previous 30-45 days (and maybe longer due to what is called the [Reach Back Effect](#)).

The heartworm industry authority, [The American Heartworm Society](#) (and their [cat heartworm site](#)) offers a wealth of information. Their website is a public service *but also* a marketing tool aimed at buyers and resellers of heartworm meds. Sponsors of this website are a Who’s Who of drug companies. Fort Dodge Animal Health (Wyeth), Merial and Pfizer are “Platinum Sponsors.” Bayer merits Silver. Novartis, Schering-Plough, Virbac and Eli Lilly get Bronze. Most of these companies have sales reps that regularly call on vets and show them how to sell you heartworm meds. With any purchase of any drug, we recommend you ask for information regarding possible adverse effects, the necessity for taking this drug and available alternatives.

### **How Heartworms Infect Dogs: It’s Not Easy!**

Well, now that we’ve looked behind the scenes of the heartworm *industry*, let’s take a look at how the heartworms themselves (called *Dirofilaria immitis*) do business. Seven steps *must* be completed to give your dog a dangerous heartworm infestation:

Step 1: To infect your dog, you need mosquitoes (so you need warm temperatures and standing water). More specifically, you need a hungry *female* mosquito of an [appropriate species](#). Female mosquitoes act as airborne incubators for premature baby heartworms (called microfilariae). Without the proper mosquito, dogs can’t get heartworms. Period.

That means dogs can’t “catch” heartworms from other dogs or mammals or from dog park lawns. Puppies can’t “catch” heartworms from their mothers *and moms* can’t pass heartworm immunity to pups.

Step 2: Our hungry mosquito needs access to a dog already infected with *sexually mature* male *and* female heartworms that have produced babies.

Step 3: The heartworm babies must be at the L1 stage of development when the mosquito bites the dog and withdraws blood.

Step 4: Ten to fourteen days later — if the temperature is right —the microfilariae mature *inside* the mosquito to the infective L3 stage then migrate to the mosquito’s mouth. (Yum!)

Step 5: Madame mosquito transmits the L3’s to *your* dog’s skin with a bite. Then, if all conditions are right, the L3’s develop in the skin for three to four months (to the L5 stage) before making their way into your dog’s blood. But your dog still isn’t doomed.

Step 6: Only if the dog’s immune system doesn’t rid the dog of these worms do the heartworms

develop to adulthood.

Step 7: It takes approximately six months for the surviving larvae to achieve maturity. At this point, the adult heartworms may produce babies if there are both males and females, but the kiddies will die unless a mosquito carrying L3's intervenes. Otherwise, the adults will live several years then die.

In summation, a particular species of mosquito must bite a dog infected with circulating L1 heartworm babies, must carry the babies to stage L3 *and* then must bite your dog. The adult worms and babies will eventually die off in the dog unless your dog is bitten again! Oh, and one more thing.

Heartworms Development Requires Sustained Day & Night Weather Above 57°F

In Step 4 above I wrote that heartworm larvae develop “if the temperature is right.”

The University of Pennsylvania vet school (in a [study](#) funded by Merial) found: “Development in the mosquito is temperature dependent, requiring approximately two weeks of temperature at or above 27°C (80°F). Below a threshold temperature of 14°C (57°F), development cannot occur, and the cycle will be halted. As a result, transmission is limited to warm months, and duration of the transmission season varies geographically.”

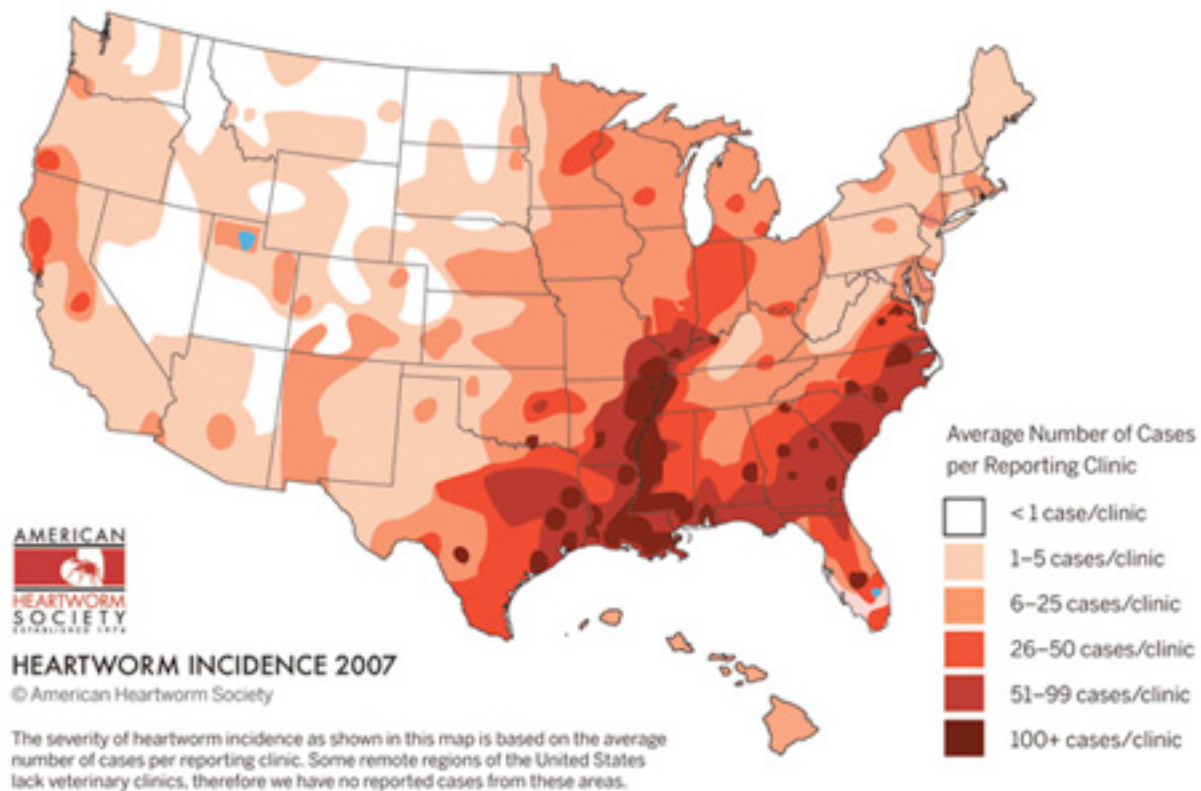
Knight and Lok agree: “In regions where average daily temperatures remain at or below about 62°F (17° C) from late fall to early spring, insufficient heat accumulates to allow maturation of infective larvae in the intermediate host [the mosquito], precluding transmission of the parasite.”

The [Washington State University](#) vet school reports that laboratory studies show that maturation of the worms requires “the equivalent of a steady 24-hour daily temperature in excess of 64°F (18°C) for approximately one month.” In other words, it has to be warm day AND night or development is retarded even if the *average* temperature is sufficiently warm. They add, that at 80° F, “10 to 14 days are required for development of microfilariae to the infective stage.”

[Jerold Theis](#), DVM, PhD, says, “If the mean monthly temperature is only a few degrees above 14 degrees centigrade [57 degrees F] it can take so many days for infective larvae to develop that the likelihood of the female mosquito living that long is remote.”

I have never found this temperature-dependent information on a website promoting “preventatives,” but only in more scholarly works not easily accessed by the public. There is, as far as I can find, only one mention of temperature on the Heartworm Society (on the [canine heartworm page](#)) and none in the Merck/Merial Veterinary Manual site or Merial's heartworm [video](#)— even though Merial funded the UPenn study.

The [Society](#) also reports, “Factors affecting the level of risk of heartworm infection include the climate (temperature, humidity), the species of mosquitoes in the area, presence of mosquito breeding areas and presence of animal reservoirs (such as infected dogs or coyotes).”



A Heartworm Society news release states: “By giving heartworm prevention every month, forgetful pet owners will have their pets protected when they need it most.” But doesn’t that also mean they get it when they need it *least*? Or need it not at all? Are *you* a “forgetful” owner?

In this part of my heartworm series, we’ll discuss informed decision-making, and suggests ways, *if you want them*, to limit or eliminate heartworm drugs. I am a researcher and holistic health advocate, not a vet. Please learn the facts then discuss with your vet the appropriate course given your dog’s location, lifestyle, travel schedule, health, climate and the time of year. Expect an open-mind and respect from your vet, or find another vet. Just as with vaccination, “one size fits all” is outdated, profit-driven, lazy medicine.

Take a look at the map above, courtesy of the Heartworm Society. [Part 1](#) of this article demonstrated that transmission is heat and mosquito dependent. As expected, dark areas of the map, which show the most heartworm cases per clinic, are found in the hot, humid Southeastern US, especially the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and Mississippi Delta.

Don’t let the map scare you. If published seasonally, map colors would pale significantly during cool months. Also remember that you’re seeing generalities, not specifics. A clinic near a rural pond will likely have many cases while an urban clinic 15 miles away may have a much lower incidence. Maps are general. Determine your own microclimate. Ask your vet how many cases of heartworm infection he/she treated in the past year. Also ask if he/she treats all positive cases, or just those with advanced infestation. If the vet doesn’t keep detailed records, that should tell you something.

Conservative start/stop maps from heartworm researchers Drs. David Knight and James Lok (in



“Seasonality of Heartworm Infections and Implications for Chemoprophylaxis”) show only two areas requiring year round heartworm meds: the southernmost areas of Florida and Texas. Houston, New Orleans and similar areas are shown requiring meds for 9 months. Other states range from 3-7 months. The Drs. wrote: **“For nearly 80% of the states, the potential for heartworm transmission is limited to 6 months or less.”** Here are [start/stop maps](#) for the US and [California](#). Again, they are very conservative and very general. Do your own research and be specific.

The Heartworm Society warns that heartworm infections are getting worse. [DVM Magazine](#), a magazine for vets, reports that recent results do show a rise in the number of positive cases per clinic in 31 states. DMV reports: “The reasons likely are multifactorial, including increased heartworm testing, increased client base per clinic or even climate trends.”

### **Does Year Round Medicating Bring Extra Protection?**

Applying sunscreen at night is useless. So is taking heartworm medication when climate conditions prevent transmission. Only a small percentage of climates permit year-round transmission. Everyone else is unnecessarily subsidizing drug companies and “preventatives” sellers *and, more importantly*, exposing their dog to unnecessary risks.

Two exceptions: 1) “Forgetful” and irresponsible pet parents who won’t begin the medication on time *or* build their dog’s natural immunity *might* want to medicate year round, although that means they have to remember to give meds every month. 2) If your dog contracts heartworms within a few years of beginning medication ... *and* you can show you gave meds year round ... *and* your dog had the required blood tests (2 or 3), you may benefit a little financially because drug companies will pay for dog’s treatment. (Read the [guarantee](#) terms published by an on-line seller.)

### **Are Heartworm Preventatives Safe?**

*You’ve seen those scary photos of worm-strangled hearts, right? Shouldn’t you give meds year round just in case? Isn’t safe better than sorry?*

But is that harmless little pill or yummie medical “brownie” really safe? **No drug is completely free of risk and adverse reactions.** I can find no *long-term* studies regarding cancer risks and organ damage for dogs receiving heartworm insecticides year round (or even for a few months). Such a study would be difficult to conduct and very expensive. Who would fund such a study – or publish any negative findings?

One clue to the possibility of adverse reactions should be label warnings: call *your doctor immediately if ingested; keep away from children; wash your hands immediately after use....* How can medication be good for dogs but so dangerous for *you*?

Another question: **is your dog healthy enough for these medications?** The “Heartworm Prevention” page of the [American Animal Hospital Association](#) states: “Healthy kidneys and normal liver functions are essential in metabolizing most medications.” Many dogs, including my Jiggy, do not have healthy organ function. I wonder how many unhealthy animals are

nevertheless on meds?

## Adverse Reactions to Heartworm Medications

With any drug, study FDA and manufacturer information *before* medicating.

These adverse reactions have been reported to the FDA by manufacturers. (Click the links for more information; write or call manufacturers with any questions). Terms you might not understand include ataxia (gross lack of coordination of muscle movements), pruritus (itchy dermatologic condition), urticaria (hives), mydriasis (excessive pupil dilation), and erythema (skin redness). Other terms should be self-explanatory.

[HEARTGARD](#) and [TriHeartPlus](#) (ivermectin): Depression/lethargy, vomiting, anorexia, diarrhea, mydriasis, ataxia staggering, convulsions and hypersalivation. [INTERCEPTOR](#) (milbemycin oxime) reports the above reactions *plus* weakness. [Sentinel](#) (milbemycin oxime) reports vomiting, depression/lethargy, pruritus, urticaria, diarrhea, anorexia, skin congestion, ataxia, convulsions, hypersalivation and weakness.

[REVOLUTION®](#) (selamectin), Topical Parasiticide For Dogs and Cats: pre-approval reactions of vomiting, loose stool or diarrhea with or without blood, anorexia, lethargy, salivation, tachypnea, and muscle tremors. Post-approval experience included the above plus pruritis, urticaria, erythema, ataxia, fever, and rare reports of death and seizures in dogs.

[Proheart 6](#) : severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis): facial swelling, itching, difficulty breathing, collapse; lethargy (sluggishness); not eating or losing interest in food; any change in activity level; seizures; vomiting and/or diarrhea (with and without blood); weight loss; pale gums, increased thirst or urination, weakness, bleeding, bruising; rare instances of death. This product was voluntarily withdrawn from the market in 2004 because of deaths but has been reintroduced. Read my post [Heartworm Protection: Do We Need ProHeart 6?](#)

For any other brand, research the product or its active ingredient *before* even thinking of administering it.

Also, never give any meds without first learning if any vitamins, minerals, herbal products or drugs interact negatively with the medication. Note age restrictions. *Most importantly, learn what symptoms alert you to a reaction.* Important note: Collies, Australian Shepards and related breeds have a sensitivity to [ivermectin](#) (Heartgard and others).

Beware any website or person professing the absolute safety of *any* medication. I'd like adverse reactions for pet medications to be included in all TV ads, as they are for meds for humans — but I don't expect it.

**Reporting Adverse Events:** Call your veterinarian immediately if you suspect a reaction to this or any other drug. Discuss alternatives and treatment and make sure the reaction is recorded in your dog's file. The AVMA says : "... notify the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) by



contacting the manufacturer. The FDA requires that manufacturers of FDA-approved drugs forward adverse event reports to the agency.” Is the fox guarding the hen house? Ask your vet to report the reaction, then *follow up* and make sure your vet did it. Under-reporting is common. (An estimated 99% of adverse reactions go unreported according to the FDA.)

**for Heartworm Infection**Heartworms can, and should, be detected by a simple blood test before administering medication. The **antigen** test detects an adult female worms at least 5-8 months old. The [Merck Veterinary Manual](#) says: “The antigen detection test is the preferred diagnostic method for asymptomatic dogs or when seeking verification of a suspected HW infection.”

Microfilariae (babies) in the blood are detected by a different blood test. These show exposure, but do not detect female adults (potential breeders). [Antibody tests](#) (as opposed to *antigen* tests) are not preferred because they indicate only that the dog has been exposed to heartworms at some time in his or her life, even if the worms subsequently died.

If you plan to give “preventatives,” test before beginning medication, preferably within a month of when daily temperatures consistently climb above 57° F. Read more at the [Heartworm Society](#) Serology section.

If you’re *not* going to use meds, homeopathic veterinarian [Jeff Feinman](#) wrote me that he advises semi-annual testing when not using preventatives. My own vet, [Tamara Hebbler](#), agrees. Testing twice yearly helps you catch disease early when it’s easier to treat. Dr. Martin Goldstein in *The Nature Of Animal Healing* says: “Only a small percentage of dogs who get heartworm die of it, especially if they’re routinely tested twice yearly for early detection. Even in untreated dogs, after a period of uncomfortable symptoms, the adult worms die....”

Did you know that the latest canine movie star “Benji” was found in a shelter, infected with heartworms? Benji was treated successfully and went onto canine fame and a healthy life.

Heartworms, like other parasites, don’t become life threatening quickly or inevitably. It takes at least 5 months, and more often 7-8 months, for a baby to grow to a reproducing adult — presuming the dog’s immune system doesn’t intervene. Also, adult males *and* females must both survive to breed.

**Important Note** If your dog’s antigen test comes back *positive*, holistic vet [Tamara Hebbler](#) suggests that before you rush into treatment with harsh, poisonous drugs, you should get a cardiac ultrasound to determine the extent of the infestation. Heartworms, like other parasites, often live with their hosts without ever causing a dangerous problem. It’s quite common for animals in the wild to live entire lives with heartworms. (If worms always killed dogs, they’d soon run out of hosts.) Unless heartworms are re-introduced by another infected mosquito, the adults and their babies will eventually die off.

**When Should You Start Administering Meds — If You’re Going To?**Remember, you kill heartworm babies after the fact. You can only “prevent” them by avoiding mosquitoes. (You can also kill them with a healthy immune system.) This means starting meds 30-45 *after* the weather warms and mosquitoes appear. Also, Washington State University warns, “If your pet travels to

heartworm areas, prevention needs to be administered within 30 days of exposure to infected mosquitoes. Adult dogs (older than 6 mos.) need to be tested before starting preventative.”

[Dr. Margo Roman](#), an integrative vet from in Massachusetts, [documentary film maker](#) and Founder of the first-ever [Integrative Health Pet Expo](#) in Massachusetts this fall, tells me she begins medication six weeks after sees mosquitoes. This allows 2 weeks for the microfilariae (baby heartworms) to mature inside a mosquito to the infective stage and be transferred to a dog, plus 30 days additional days covered by the medication working backwards to kill those babies.

### **When Should You Stop Heartworm “Preventatives”?**

Dr. Roman recommends stopping meds after the first frost for people living in an area with cold winters. In other areas, vets recommend stopping 30-45 days after weather is consistently below 57 F degrees and you see no mosquitoes. See Part 1 of this article, and the start/stop maps, for more details.

### **What Brand Should You Use?**

Consumers often think that “preventing” as many parasites as possible with one product is a bargain — and ultimately safer for the dog. But why expose your dog to additional, unnecessary toxins? Most holistic vets will tell you to protect against *only* those pests (and diseases) your dog is likely to encounter. To see which products do what, see the “preventatives” comparison chart at [Veterinary Partner](#).

### **\*\*\*Low Dose “Safeheart” Medication Approved by the FDA**

More than a decade ago — on June 4, 1998 — the **FDA approved a 1/5 dose version of Interceptor heartworm medication, a product called Safeheart**. This expensive field trial was conducted and the dosage approved — but inexplicably *the product was never marketed in the U.S.*

To duplicate the Safeheart heartworm “prevention” method — which you can’t buy — you have split the Interceptor dose into quarters. Check with Interceptor first, and ask your pharmacist or vet how to do this accurately. The recommended once-a-month dosage is 0.1 mg of milbemycin oxime per kg of body weight (0.05 mg/lb). (Interceptor’s regular dose of dosage is 0.5 mg milbemycin oxime per kg of body weight.) Print the FDA’s [Safeheart report](#) and take it to your vet for your prescription and additional instructions.

*Note: At this dose, only heartworms will be treated with the Safeheart method, not other worms or fleas.*

### **How Often Should You Give Meds?**

In his important book *Homeopathic Care For Cats and Dogs*, veterinarian Don Hamilton says of heartworm: “In dogs the “monthly” preventives are effective if given at six week intervals, and possibly even at seven- or eight week intervals....” Author/veterinarians Richard Pitcairn and

Allen Schoen told us essentially the same thing when we were researching our book [Scared Poopless](#). If you opt for this “less is more” treatment with “preventatives,” mark dosing dates on your calendar and don’t miss them.

The vets at [Holistic Vet Center](#) say: “... monthly heartworm preventatives are actually 100% effective if given every 45 days and 99% effective if given every 60 days.”

I presume that the monthly schedule was designed for the ease of remembering when to give meds. However ... giving meds monthly rather than every 45 days requires more doses – and offers more opportunities for adverse reactions. For someone medicating year-round, that’s 4 fewer doses per year.

### **Are There Natural Heartworm Preventatives?**

Mosquito control is the ultimate natural preventative. No mosquitoes, no heartworms. Control mosquitoes by eliminating standing water and staying indoors at dusk and dawn. Use bug spray (marked safe and non-toxic for animals and children). Buy bug zappers. (All these are good ideas for human protection from mosquito-borne diseases as well.)

Is mosquito control 100% effective? No, but [Mosquito.org](#) has some great tips. (Note: one study showed that a full moon increased mosquito activity by 500%.) Find more information on [controlling mosquitoes](#) in this University of California report.

*What do I do?* Well, for me, the choice was easy. I live in So. California. I rarely see mosquitoes. My dogs spend most of their time indoors. Nights are invariably cool.

With the advice of two local vets, I decided to protect my own dogs (both of whom have health challenges) against the toxicity of heartworm “preventatives” rather than protect against an unlikely infection. I use non-toxic alternatives like mosquito control, an excellent diet and no drugs unless they’re absolutely unavoidable. I increase safety by testing blood twice yearly. I haven’t used “preventatives” for five or six years and my dogs remain heartworm free. This is my personal decision. I am not a vet.

If I lived in a mosquito-heavy area, however, I might do much the same. I would determine local risks and would consult a local holistic vet to get help preventing heartworms naturally. I would control mosquitoes and test blood twice or more yearly. Someone who had “outside dogs,” and who was the nervous about heartworms, might also use heartworm meds or the Safeheart method during the peak heartworm months of July and August, but only if their dogs had healthy kidneys and livers. They should make any decision with a knowledgeable vet.

Dr. Will Falconer, a holistic vet certified in acupuncture and homeopathy, has written an e-book called “[Vital Animals Don’t Get Heartworm](#)” This over 50+ page, well-written e-book (currently \$21.95) is delivered electronically. I do not profit from sales of this book. Drs. Richard Pitcairn and Martin Goldstein have also written about this in their books.

Most importantly, **do not make decisions out of fear. Don’t let anyone, even your vet,**

**intimidate or ridicule you. Be an educated consumer and a rabid advocate for your dog's health.**

**Disclaimer:** The information provided here is for educational purposes only. Do not rely on this information without doing your own research including consultation with your own veterinarian. Do not buy or fail a product for treating heartworm without evaluating it carefully.

## **BRAGS AND WAGS**

**RB and Tom Mahoney's "Barcole Rock Me Amadeus" is growing up. Shown and groomed fabulously by Paul Clas and Chrystal Murray.**

Judge: Mrs. Sari Brewster Tietjen

DaVinci is a son of RB and Tom's corded Grand Champion, Parker..



“Coco” another Parker son. He is ½ brother to DaVinci and just finished his Championship.

