

SHAWNEE, Kan., Jan. 19, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- Veterinarians wanting to keep their heartworm protocols up to date should check out the latest information from the American Heartworm Society (AHS) and the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC), say representatives from the Bayer HealthCare LLC Animal Health division. New information on heartworm prevention, diagnosis and treatment recently prompted changes to the guidelines veterinarians rely on when establishing their heartworm protocols. Both AHS and CAPC have announced updates to their heartworm guidelines, citing—among other factors—new information about the documented presence of resistant sub-populations of heartworms.

"At Bayer, we commend these two organizations for their decision to revise their recommendations," said Cristiano von Simson, DVM, MBA, director of Veterinary Technical Services at Bayer HealthCare LLC Animal Health division, North America

. The AHS guidelines reinforce the importance of year-round administration of heartworm preventives, support the administration of doxycycline and macrocyclic lactones prior to adulticide therapy and recommend both antigen and microfilaria testing. In addition, the AHS guidelines also referenced the recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of Bayer's Advantage Multi

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for Dogs (imidacloprid + moxidectin) as the first and only product labeled for circulating microfilaria treatment in heartworm positive dogs in the United States

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"Bayer is passionate about caring for animals and develops products and services that support veterinarians' ability to keep our pets healthy," said von Simson. "These updated guidelines, and the FDA's recognition of the importance of treating microfilaria, will strengthen veterinarians' capability to reduce the incidence and severity of heartworm disease in dogs."

According to the American Heartworm Society, there are conservatively 1 million cases of heartworm disease diagnosed in dogs every year.¹ Heartworm disease most commonly results in abnormal functioning of the lungs, heart, liver and kidneys.

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New information on resistance, *Wolbachia* and diagnostic testing drive AHS updates"AHS continually seeks the latest information when it comes to understanding and preventing heartworm disease," says

Stephen Jones

, DVM, President of the American Heartworm Society, noting that the latest update reflects information and research presented during the 2013 Triennial Heartworm Symposium. "Like the practitioners we serve, we need to be prepared to adjust our recommendations as new information becomes available. This past year was significant in terms of identifying new information about diagnosis, prevention and treatment of heartworm disease."

The American Heartworm Society's mission is to lead the veterinary profession, as well as further scientific progress in the study of heartworm disease, inform its members of new developments and help promote effective procedures for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of heartworm disease. The AHS' complete canine heartworm guidelines may be found at <http://www.heartwormsociety.org/veterinary-resources/canine-guidelines.html>

The updated AHS feline guidelines can be found at: <http://www.heartwormsociety.org/veterinary-resources/feline-guidelines.html>

Companion Animal Parasite Council revises heartworm guidelines for caninesLast month the Companion Animal Parasite Council published their latest revisions to the heartworm prevention and treatment guidelines which continue to advocate for year-round heartworm prevention for dogs and cats. This recommendation is based on parasite behaviors and human

behaviors related to heartworm prevention. Like many other diseases, heartworm is much easier and less expensive to prevent than to treat. Consequently, pet owners should be educated about prevention and strongly encouraged to improve compliance by keeping up with year-round prevention.

"Given the very effective preventives available, dogs and cats shouldn't develop heartworm disease," says Susan E. Little, DVM, Ph.D., Professor of Parasitology at Oklahoma State University and President-elect of CAPC. "Nonetheless, a large number of pets continue to become infected each year due, in part, to the varying activity times and behaviors of the mosquitoes that transmit heartworm, making it impossible to target transmission seasons or locations precisely. Year-round prevention is of utmost importance."

The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) aims to foster animal and human health, while preserving the human-animal bond, through recommendations for the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of parasitic infections. CAPC's complete canine heartworm guidelines may be found here: <http://www.capcvet.org/capc-recommendations/canine-heartworm/>.

About Advantage Multi® for Dogs For more information on Advantage Multi® for Dogs, visit <http://www.bayerdvm.com/show.aspx/productdetail/advantage-multi-for-dogs>
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¹Weyenberg, K. (2009). Team Up Against Heartworm. The Team, pg. 10-12.²American Heartworm Society,

Bayer commends AHS and CAPC for updated heartworm guidelines

Written by Australian Business

Pet Owner Glossary

,
<http://www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources/glossary.html>

. Accessed
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