

March 2018

From Mayfield Graves Co Animal Shelter

SHELTER HOURS

The shelter has the following hours:

T, W, Th, F 12:00-5:00

Saturday 12:00-4:00

Sunday and Monday Closed



Up-coming Events



Board meeting on March 19 @ 6:30
at the animal shelter.

Newly Elected Officers

Belinda Hamlet—President

Martha Thomas—Vice President

Jasey Olmeda—Secretary

Doug Carneal—Treasurer



Adopted shelter dog saves baby



This story takes “who rescued who” to a whole new level.

The Rosseau family of Connecticut adopted Duke from their local shelter. Six years later, Duke woke them in the middle of the night, frantic.

Because his mom said Duke was usually “insanely obedient,” the fact that he wouldn’t stop his behavior instantly let them know something was wrong.

They found their 9-week-old baby, Harper, in her crib, not breathing.

Dad immediately called 911, and the little one was saved. All thanks to one very special, beloved shelter dog!

Next month the theme of this newsletter will be **Cat Heroes**. I found some great stories of how cats saved their beloved families. Hope you saw the story on the news this week of the cat that save its family from fire.

This month is devoted to information about **heartworms** in dogs and cats. The shelter has so many dogs, both strays and owner surrender, that have heartworms. This happens all year long and all seasons. Western Kentucky has many ponds, lakes and rivers. We also have a lot of wooded areas. Both of these provide breeding places for mosquitos.

You may think your dog is protected because it is an inside dog. Most dogs go out to do their chores. Most go out before bed time which is when the highest concentration of mosquitos exist. It just takes 1 bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitos also get into houses and can bite your unsuspecting dog then. Beginning on page 4 is information about heartworms and learn what the shelter is trying to do to help.

March's Featured Pets



PUMBA

Adult Chow Chow & Mixed Breed Mix

Male

Medium

Black , Brindle , Yellow / Tan / Blond / Fawn



IZZY

Breed: Domestic Shorthair / Mix

Age: 11m 7d Gender: Female

Color: Brown / Black

Spayed/Neutered: Yes

Size: Small

Declawed: No

Shelter Facts

INTAKES AND OUTCOMES FOR JANUARY 2018 and FEBRUARY 2018

Animal Intakes

	Owner Surrender	ACO Seizure	Stray	Returned to Shelter	Other	Total
January	57	12	26	1	0	96
February	51	27	25	0	0	106

Animal Outcomes

	Adoption	Return to Owner	Animals to Rescues
January	13	09	46
February	23	05	72

Shelter Facts continued

February's intake break-down by jurisdiction and species:



City animal intake	38
County animal intake	68
Cats and cats with litters	29
Dogs and dogs with litters	77

Information is Based on January 1, 2018 to February 28, 2018

In February 2018 the shelter has received **106** animals.

38 city animals and **68** county animals have been received.

In 2017(February) the shelter received **107** animals.

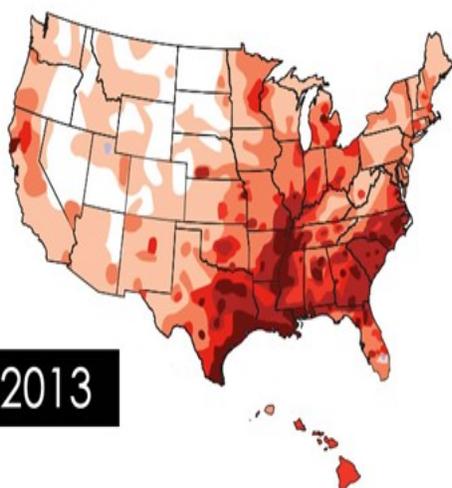
So far **in 2018 118** dogs have gone to various rescues.

You can get your dog or cat microchipped at the shelter for a very reasonable cost.
Give us a call.

*Please don't breed or buy
while shelter dogs die.*

PLEASE be a responsible pet owner and **SPAY/NEUTER** your pet.

Issue 77



Heart-worm
Incidence
2013
26-50 cases
51-99 cases
100+ cases
**We border on
25-50 up to 99**



These are heartworms from an infected dog.

What is heartworm disease?

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in pets in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. Heartworm disease affects dogs, cats and ferrets, but heartworms also live in other mammal species, including wolves, coyotes, foxes, sea lions and—in rare instances—humans. Because wild species such as foxes and coyotes live in proximity to many urban areas, they are considered important carriers of the disease.

Dogs. The dog is a natural host for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog mature into adults, mate and produce offspring. If untreated, their numbers can increase, and dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies. Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries, and can affect the dog's health and quality of life long after the parasites are gone. For this reason, prevention is by far the best option, and treatment—when needed—should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible.

Cats. Heartworm disease in cats is very different from heartworm disease in dogs. The cat is an atypical host for heartworms, and most worms in cats do not survive to the adult stage. Cats with adult heartworms typically have just one to three worms, and many cats affected by heartworms have no adult worms. While this means heartworm disease often goes undiagnosed in cats, it's important to understand that even immature worms cause real damage in the form of a condition known as heartworm associated respiratory disease (HARD). Moreover, the medication used to treat heartworm infections in dogs cannot be used in cats, so prevention is the only means of protecting cats from the effects of heartworm disease. Reprinted from American Heartworm Society.

Q & A , Myths and Facts About Heartworms

www.pets.webmd.com

Heartworms in dogs are easy to prevent, but difficult and costly to cure. We asked Sheldon Rubin, 2007-2010 president of the American Heartworm Society, to separate facts from the myths about heartworm infestations in dogs.

Q: How do dogs get heartworms?

A: Only by the bite of an infected mosquito. There's no other way dogs get heartworms. And there's no way to tell if a mosquito is infected. That's why prevention is so important. It takes about seven months, once a dog is bitten by an infected mosquito, for the larvae to mature into adult heartworms. They then lodge in the heart, lungs, and surrounding blood vessels and begin reproducing. Adult worms can grow up to 12 inches in length, can live 5-7 years, and a dog can have as many as 250 worms in its system.

Q: Can people get heartworms from their dogs?

A: It can only be passed on by mosquitoes. It's a specific parasite that only affects dogs and cats and ferrets and other mammals. In rare cases, heartworms have infected people, but it does not complete its life cycle.

Q: If one of my dogs has heartworms, can he give it to my other dogs?

A: No. Again, the only way heartworms are transmitted is through the bite of an infected mosquito. And even if an uninfected mosquito bit your infected dog, and then bit your uninfected dog the same night, he wouldn't transmit the parasite from one dog to the other. That's because when a mosquito bites an infected animal, the heartworm needs to undergo an incubation period in the mosquito before the mosquito can infect other animals.

Q: Is it OK to adopt a dog with heartworms?

A: It's a very common problem in animal shelters today, and public shelters rarely have the money to treat heartworm disease. It's perfectly acceptable to adopt a dog with heartworms, but you have to be dedicated to having the disease treated appropriately, because it's a horrible disease that can lead to a dog's death if left untreated.

Q: How can I prevent my dogs from getting heartworms?

A: For less than the cost of going to Starbucks for a weekly coffee, you can prevent heartworm disease in your dog. There are monthly pills, monthly topicals that you put on the skin, and there's also a six-month injectable product. The damage that's done to the dog and the cost of the treatment is way more than the cost to prevent heartworm disease. A year's supply of heartworm preventative will cost about \$35 to \$80, depending on a dog's weight.

Q: What are the symptoms of heartworm infestations in dogs?

A: Initially, there are no symptoms. But as more and more worms crowd the heart and lungs, most dogs will develop a cough. As it progresses, they won't be able to exercise as much as before; they'll become winded easier. With severe heartworm disease, we can hear abnormal lung sounds, dogs can pass out from the loss of blood to the brain, and they can retain fluids. Eventually, most dogs will die if the worms are not treated.

Q: Once my dog has heartworms, what's the treatment? How much will it cost?

A: The drug that you treat with is called Immiticide. It's an injectable, arsenic-based product. The dog is given two or three injections that will kill the adult heartworms in the blood vessels of the heart.

The safest way to treat heartworms includes an extensive pre-treatment workup, including X-rays, blood work, and all the tests needed to establish how serious the infection is. Then the dog is given the injections. With all the prep work, it can run up to \$1,000. But just the treatment can be done for about \$300 in some areas.

Q: Why do I have to keep my dog quiet during the several months he's being treated for heartworms?

A: After treatment, the worms begin to die. And as they die, they break up into pieces, which can cause a blockage of the pulmonary vessels and cause death. That's why dogs have to be kept quiet during the treatment and then for several months afterward. Studies have shown that most of the dogs that die after heartworm treatment do so because the owners let them exercise. It's not due to the drug itself.

Q: If my dog is diagnosed with heartworms, can I just give him his monthly preventative instead of having him go through treatment? Won't that kill his heartworms?

A: Studies have shown that if you use ivermectin, the common preventative, on a monthly basis in a dog with heartworm disease, after about two years you'll kill off most of the dog's young heartworms. The problem is, in the meantime, all of those heartworms are doing permanent damage to the heart and blood vessels.

Q: Can I skip giving my dog his preventative during colder months, when there aren't any mosquitoes?

A: The American Heartworm Society recommends year-round heartworm prevention. One reason is, there's already a serious problem with people forgetting to give their dogs the heartworm preventatives. It's a universal problem. Now if you use it year-round, and you miss a month, your dog will probably still be protected. But if you miss more than one or two months your dog could become infected.

The other reason not to stop is that many of the preventatives today also include an intestinal parasite control for roundworms, whipworms, or tapeworms. You want your dog to be protected against those at all times.

Q: If I don't treat my dog with heartworms, will he "outgrow" his heartworms?

A: No. He stands a good chance of dying from the disease.

Q: I've heard the treatment for heartworms can be dangerous. Are there any newer, safer alternatives?

A: We used to use plain arsenic to treat it, which had many side effects. What we use now is a safer product with fewer side effects. It's a safe product if used correctly.

Q: If my dog gets heartworms, and is treated for them, can he get them again?

A: Yes, he can get them again. **That's why prevention is so important.**

Mayfield Graves County Animal Shelter is fighting heartworm in dogs three ways.

Several years ago one of our board members, Belinda Hamlet, established a special fund to provide medical treatment to dogs in need. This fund is lovingly called Betty's Babies. It is funded by donations and special fund raisers.

Friends of the shelter, individuals and businesses, also sponsor dogs and contribute to their heartworm treatment. See story below.

We apply for grants as they become available but competition is great.



Vitani is shown with her heartworm treatment sponsors: Paige Thomas (left) and Alyssa Daugherty (far right), along with her foster parents: Ronnie and Jaime Moyers and Zera.

Gus stands with his heartworm treatment sponsors: Elizabeth Gilliland, Paige Thomas, Jenn Reeder. Also contributing but absent from photo: Ashley Vaughn, Becky Jones, Kelly Dublin, Mitzi Lee and Alyssa Daugherty.



Gus and Vitani are very fortunate dogs. Thanks to a challenge made when receiving Christmas gifts from their boss; these employees of 1st KY Bank, decided to “pay it forward” by helping dogs who need heartworm treatment. They were reluctant at first to “just give money” because last year they used their money to purchase food for the Mayfield/Graves Co. Animal Shelter. They spent a great deal of time searching for the best prices on dog and cat food so their money would stretch as far as possible. Even though this year their money only reached two dogs, these ladies saved the lives of Gus and Vitani. What a wonderful way to pay it forward. If you are interested in helping heartworm positive dogs, you can bring your donation to the shelter at 500 N. 12th St. or call 270-247-0130. Be sure to designate your donation to Betty's Babies to target these heartworm positive dogs. We are hoping to expand our help to puppies with parvovirus and feline leukemia treatment in cats.