

Table 3. AHS Recommended Management Protocol

| Day | Treatment |
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| Day 0 | <p>Dog diagnosed and verified as heartworm positive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive antigen (Ag) test verified with 2nd Ag or microfilaria (MF) test • Clinical signs with one positive Ag test and MF test (for status) <p>Begin exercise restriction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The more pronounced the symptoms, the stricter the exercise restriction. <p>If the dog is symptomatic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilize with appropriate therapy and nursing care. • Prednisone prescribed at 0.5 mg/kg BID 1st week, 0.5 mg/kg SID 2nd week, 0.5 mg/kg EOD 3rd and 4th week |
| Day 1 | <p>Administer heartworm preventive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If microfilariae are present, pretreat with antihistamine and glucocorticosteroid if not already on prednisone to reduce risk of anaphylaxis. • Observe for at least 8 hours for signs of reaction. |
| Day 1-28 | <p>Doxycycline 10 mg/kg BID for 4 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces pathology associated with dead heartworms • Disrupts heartworm transmission |
| Day 30 | Administer heartworm preventive. <i>microfilaria test</i> |
| Day 60 | <p>Administer heartworm preventive. 1st melarsomine injection 2.5 mg/kg intramuscularly (IM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rx prednisone 0.5 mg/kg BID 1st week, 0.5 mg/kg SID 2nd week, 0.5 mg/kg EOD 3rd and 4th week <p>Decrease activity level even further.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cage restriction/on leash when using yard |
| Day 90 | Administer heartworm preventive. 2nd melarsomine injection 2.5 mg/kg IM |
| Day 91 | <p>3rd melarsomine injection 2.5 mg/kg IM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rx prednisone 0.5 mg/kg BID 1st week, 0.5 mg/kg SID 2nd week, 0.5 mg/kg EOD 3rd and 4th week <p>Continue exercise restriction for 6 to 8 weeks following last melarsomine injections.</p> |
| Day 120 | <p>Test for presence of microfilariae.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If positive, treat for microfilariae with additional 30-day regimen of doxycycline and retest in 4 weeks. <p>Establish year-round heartworm prevention.</p> |
| Day 271 | Antigen test 6 months after completion. |