

Heartworm Preventive Comparison Chart for Dogs and Cats

Wendy Brooks, DVM, DABVP

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Confused about heartworm prevention options? These two charts compare current heartworm preventive products side by side to assist you in determining which is right for your situation.

In the second chart, LD50 stands for lethal dose to 50 percent of a population. Typically lethal doses are expressed as oral (toxin taken by mouth) or by dermal (toxin placed on the skin). LD50s are usually determined with lab animal species such as rats, mice, and rabbits, but occasionally information is available for dogs. LD50s are expressed in milligrams of ingredient per kilogram of animal body weight (i.e. mg/kg) and provides a way to compare the toxicity of different substances.

The higher the LD50, the less toxic a substance is. Some of the materials reviewed here are so safe that LD50 has not been determined and we can only say that it is greater than a certain amount tested. The highest numbers represent the safest numbers.

Additional Resources

- [Heartworm Diagnosis in Dogs and Cats](#)
- [Heartworm Infection in Cats](#)
- [Heartworm Treatment for Dogs](#)
- [Heartworm: The Parasite](#)
- [Preventing Heartworm Infection in Dogs](#)
- [What Happens in Heartworm Disease](#)

	For Dogs or Cats	Heartworm Preventing Ingredient	Other Ingredients for Control of Other Parasites	Other Parasites Controlled	Mode of Application	Youngest Age to Start Using
Heartgard for Dogs	Dogs	Ivermectin	None	None	oral	6 weeks
Heartgard Plus, Iverhart Plus, Iverhart Max, Triheart Plus, Pet Trust Plus	Dogs	Ivermectin	Pyrantel Pamoate Iverhart Max also has praziquantel	hookworms, roundworms Iverhart Max also covers tapeworms	oral	6 weeks
Heartgard for Cats	Cats	Ivermectin	None	hookworms	oral	6 weeks
Interceptor, MilbeGuard, Milbehart	Dogs and Cats	Milbemycin Oxime	None	hookworms, roundworms, whipworms	oral	4 weeks for puppies 6 weeks for kittens

Interceptor Plus	Dogs	Milbemycin Oxime	Praziquantel	hookworms, roundworms, whipworms, tapeworms	oral	6 weeks (and at least 2 lbs)
Sentinel, Sentinel Spectrum	Dogs	Milbemycin Oxime	Lufenuron Sentinel Spectrum also has praziquantel	hookworms, roundworms, whipworms, sterilizes fleas Sentinel Spectrum also covers tapeworms	oral	6 weeks (and at least 2 lbs)
Revolution, Paradyme, Revolt	Dogs and Cats	Selamectin	None	For dogs: fleas, ticks, ear mites, sarcoptic mange mites For Cats: fleas, ear mites, hookworms, roundworms	topical	6 weeks for puppies 8 weeks for kittens
Advantage Multi, Imoxi Topical	Dogs and Cats	Moxidectin	Imidocloprid	For dogs: fleas, hookworms, roundworms, whipworms For Cats: fleas, ear mites, hookworms, roundworms	topical	7 weeks for puppies 9 weeks for kittens
Proheart6, Proheart 12	Dogs	Moxidectin	None	hookworms	injectable	6 months for Proheart6, 12 months for Proheart12
Trifexis	Dogs	Milbemycin Oxime	Spinosad	fleas, hookworms, roundworms, whipworms	oral	8 weeks
Coraxis	Dogs	Moxidectin	None	roundworms, hookworms, whipworms	topical	7 weeks and at least 3 lbs
Simparica Trio	Dogs	Moxidectin	Sarolaner, pyrantel pamoate	fleas, ticks, roundworms, hookworms	oral	8 weeks, 2.8 lbs
Bravecto Plus	Cats	Moxidectin	Fluralaner (for fleas and ticks)	ticks, fleas, hookworms, roundworms	topical	6 months

	How Often Used	Approved for Pregnancy and Lactation?	Water-proof?	Safe to Give to Heartworm Positive Animal?	Manufacturer Website	LD50
Heartgard for Dogs	Monthly	yes	yes	yes	Heartgard	10 mg/kg in rats orally according to MSDS sheet for Parade Equine Gel
Heartgard Plus, Iverhart Plus, Triheart Plus, Pet Trust Plus	monthly	yes	yes	yes	Heartgard Plus Iverhart Plus Triheart Plus PetTrustPlus	10 mg/kg in rats orally for ivermectin; >690 mg/kg in dogs orally for Pyrantel Pamoate according to The Elephant Formulary by Mikota and Plumb

Heartgard for Cats	monthly	yes	yes	yes	Heartgard	10 mg/kg in rats orally
Interceptor, MilbeGuard, Milbehart	monthly	yes	yes	In most cases yes but if microfilariae numbers are high then no	Interceptor MilbeGuard	LD50 information unavailable Symptoms of tremors and incoordination result at 19 times recommended dose
Interceptor Plus	monthly	not tested for lactation, consult your vet regarding use in pregnancy	yes	In most cases yes but if microfilariae numbers are high then no	Interceptor Plus	LD50 information unavailable Symptoms of tremors and incoordination result at 19 times recommended dose
Sentinel, Sentinel Spectrum	monthly	yes	yes	In most cases yes but if microfilariae numbers are high then no	Sentinel	LD50 information unavailable Symptoms of tremors and incoordination result at 19 times recommended dose
Revolution, Paradyne, Revolt	monthly	yes	yes	yes	Revolution	>1600 mg/kg in the rat orally
Advantage Multi, Imoxi Topical	monthly	no	no	yes	Advantage Multi	Moxidectin: 106 mg/kg orally; Imidocloprid: 450 mg/kg in the rat orally
Proheart6, Proheart12	every 6 months for Proheart6, every 12 months for Proheart12	yes	yes	No, in fact owner must agree to pre-treatment labwork including heartworm testing	Proheart6	263 mg/kg in the rat when given by injection (the dose used therapeutically is 0.17mg/kg)
Trifexis	monthly	Manufacturer cautions use, says to discuss with your veterinarian	yes	In most cases, yes but if microfilariae numbers are high then no	Trifexis	Milbemycin Oxime: LD50 information unavailable Spinosad: >3,000 mg/kg in rats; >2,000 mg/kg in rabbits (translates to over 30 times recommended dose)
Coraxis	monthly	no	no	yes	BayerDVM	106 mg/kg orally
Simparica Trio	monthly	no	yes	no	Zoetis	783 mg/kg for rats (oral)

Bravecto Plus	every 2 months	no	no	manufacturer recommends use with caution	Merck	Fluralaner: Dermal LD50: >2000mg/kg (rat) Moxidectin: 106 mg/kg orally
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These products are available in the U.S. Pet owners in other countries should discuss options with their veterinarians.

Related resources

- [Heartworm: The Parasite - April 10, 2022](#) 
- [Heartworm Treatment for Dogs - November 17, 2021](#) 
- [Heartworm Disease in Dogs - August 22, 2021](#) 
- [Heartworm Diagnosis in Dogs and Cats - June 10, 2021](#) 
- [Heartworm Infection in Cats - April 29, 2021](#) 

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