

Heartworm Preventive Comparison Chart for Dogs and Cats

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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, Paradyne, 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, Ifoxi 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 | topcial | 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 |
|----------------------|----------------|----|----|--|-----------------------|---|

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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