

Houston Boxer Rescue
1450 W. Grand Parkway S Suite G-439
Katy, TX 77494

HEARTWORM TREATMENT AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

HBR follows a protocol that starts with Doxycycline for 30 days before the first injection. This buffers the system and improves the process for the dog. In some cases, for the first injection, the dog will spend one night at the vet. This is to monitor and make sure that the dog does not have an allergic reaction to the medication. Over the next few weeks, the adult heartworms which reside in the heart and lungs will die and be processed by the body as a result of the treatment given. The body will remove the remnant material by mounting an inflammatory response and physically breaking down the worm tissue into progressively smaller particles.

Please observe the following instructions

“Bed Rest” is in order here. This means your dog should be inside and only allowed outside on a short leash. No free exercise, walks, visits to the pet store, visits with other people should be allowed for the full four-eight weeks. This also includes playing with other resident pets. The goal is to keep the heart rate down to a “Bed Rest” level during the entire eight weeks. This will help moderate the affects on the lungs of the heartworms breaking down.

PHASE I

There may be some swelling at the injection site(s). You can use a warm compress on these areas for 5 minutes twice daily to decrease inflammation. Your dog has been prescribed Prednisone (steroid) and Doxycycline (Antibiotic) during this treatment. These drugs help boost the immune system and prevent infection while the dog’s body is going through the changes necessary as the heartworms are dying. It is common that the steroid can cause a house trained/ crate trained dog to lose control of their bladder while on this medication. This will result in accidents in the house or accidents in the kennel. If this is occurring, please call the HBR Team and we will consult with the vet on reducing the dosage on the steroid.

PHASE II

Your dog will be scheduled for Phase 2 of heartworm treatment in a 3-4 weeks after the first injection. This second phase consists of two injections. The dog will stay overnight at the vet for one or two nights while they monitor the dog. The same set of instructions apply for Phase 2 as for Phase 1 of treatment.

GENERAL NOTES

Each dog will react differently to heartworm treatment. Some dogs act like they never knew they got a shot. Other dogs will be lethargic for a few days and may not eat or have their usual pep for a day or two. In some cases, the first shot is not as problematic as the second set of shots. Just monitor the dog, keep them calm, and watch for any coughing, shortness of breath, or wheezing. If there is bloody discharge from the nose or during a cough, contact the vet or a HBR Representative immediately.

Your dog should continue to take their Heartworm Preventative while under care and for the rest of its life.

HBR Team

The HBR Leadership Team is here to support you during this heartworm treatment experience. Please contact Cheryl Brown or Ariann Fahey if any issues arise or if you have any questions during heartworm treatment.

Thank you! Ariann, LA and Cheryl