

## Heartworm Treatment Protocol

### Melarsomine (Immiticide) Protocol

**Tech Obtain the following:**

- Temperature
- Gum Color
- CRT
- Level of pain
- Background: coughing, exercise intolerance, etc
- Can they keep their dog calm?

**Vet Exam**

*An exam with the veterinarian for auscultation is required to start the Doxycycline.*

**Rx: Doxycycline**

- Start Doxycycline 4.5mg/lb SID x 28 days, one month prior to injections begin
- If late for injections, Doxy must be within the last 90 days. If it has been longer, the medication must be re-started.

After the Doxycycline is completed, the dog will be started on Prednisone and sent home with Methocarbamol to give during the treatment. At this time verbally confirm the dog is still healthy and doing well. If needed consult with a vet.

**Rx: Prednisone**

- Start 48 hours before the 1st injection
- 0.45 mg/lb (1mg/kg) PO SID x 7 days,
- Then 0.22 mg/lb(0.5mg/kg) PO SID x 5 days
- Then 0.22 mg/lb (0.5mg/kg) PO every other day x 3 doses

**Rx: Methocarbamol 500mg**

- First dose should be given 2 hours prior to injection.
- Give 'A' PO once 2 hours prior to first injection, then give 'B' PO BID x 5d

<b>Weight</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
<7 lb	1/4 tab	1/8 tab
7 - 15 lb	1/2 tab	1/4 tab
16 - 25 lb	1 tab	1/2 tab
26 - 50 lb	1 - 1/2 tab	3/4 tab
51 - 75 lb	2 tab	1 tab
76 - 100 lb	2 - 1/2 tab	1 - 1/4 tab
>100 lb	3 tab	1 - 1/2 tab

### **Day 1 Melarsomine Injection**

Ensure the dog is healthy!

- The first injection is normally on the left side.
- Clip and scrub site.
- Immiticide dosing is **0.045 ml/lb**
- If you are having difficulty placing the needle ask for help!
- Send home the Merial Information sleeve, make sure adopters/fosters have our number, and answer any questions they may have.

### **Day 2 Injection**

Ensure the dog is healthy!

- Ask how the dog did (any issues/concerns?)
- The second injection should be on the opposite side of the first injection.
- Immiticide dosing is **0.045 ml/lb**

### **Bed Rest**

4 weeks of bed-rest starts after the first injection! The dog will be "pre-adopt" during this time in case any complications occur.

### **Heartworm Testing**

Retest at 8-10 months post injections with regular vet

### **Slow Kill Protocol**

When deemed necessary by veterinarian the slow kill method may be indicated. This method is most commonly used in cases when the pet cannot be kept calm during the recovery process or the pet is young and may have a juvenile infection.

- Doxycycline at 4.5mg/lb PO SID x 28 day, pulsed every other month x 6 months (3 cycles)
- Heartgard or Iverheart q2 weeks for the 6m period.
- Re-test at 8 months, continue if still positive and veterinarian deems necessary