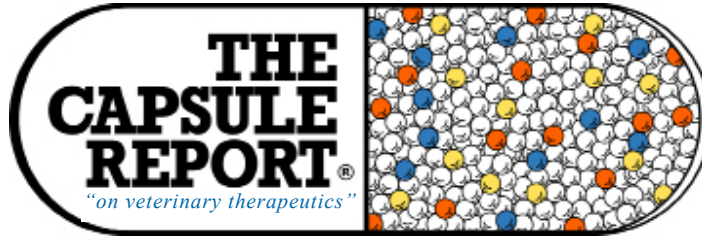


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AT A GLANCE

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Heartworm, alternative treatment

If the 3-dose protocol is not possible, two melarsomine injections (2.5 mg/kg, IM, 24 hours apart), ideally after doxycycline (10 mg/kg, PO, every 12 hours) has been administered for 28 days, is considered the next best option. Melarsomine without doxycycline in this 2-dose protocol has been shown to clear only 90.7% of worms in 6 dogs with transplanted adult heartworms; one worm was still present in 3 of 6 dogs. A benefit, however, is that adulticide therapy can be initiated soon after diagnosis, increasing the likelihood the patient will receive the entire treatment protocol.

*Andrew R. Moorhead, DVM and Marisa K. Ames, DVM
Clinician's Brief, Nov/Dec 2021*

At-home therapy for pyoderma

For clients who may not be able to afford or access commercially available products, dilute vinegar and bleach solutions are inexpensive antimicrobial therapy options. However, if too concentrated, these solutions can lead to skin irritation and thus must be made correctly. Dilute vinegar is made by mixing equal parts white vinegar and water, applying it to the skin, and allowing it to air dry. These solutions are applied to the skin for 10 minutes before being rinsed off or allowed to air dry and can also provide anti-inflammatory properties. To avoid contact reactions, use regular, unscented bleach. 5.25% (regular strength): 1 mL bleach to 1050 mL water.

*Annette Lundberg, DVM et al.
Today's Vet Pract, Jul/Aug 2022*

“No” diets

Another common aspect of marketing pet food is when companies promote their foods by saying they have ‘no _____’, implying that whatever is not in their diet must be bad for your pet and is likely in other competitor foods. This is very misleading and confusing to owners. One example of this is companies promoting their diets by saying they contain ‘no grains’ or are ‘grain-free.’ This can be very confusing to owners because there have not been any studies to show that diets without grains are better for pets than those with grains. Physiologically, both cats and dogs can do well on diets with moderate amounts of protein, fat, and carbohydrates (including grains), and there is no evidence that grains are harmful nor that they are more likely to cause allergies than other ingredients. This is unfortunately a very common marketing tool that companies can use to position their products over others without evidence.

*Deborah E. Linder, DVM, MS, DACVN
Fetch Kansas City, 08:21*

Hospice and the use of tramadol

If the pet is painful, prescribing medications like NSAIDs (having them sign a release), gabapentin, buprenorphine, amantadine, acetaminophen (DOGS ONLY), etc. can give the pet more quality time with its owner. Tramadol is controversial and has been shown to be ineffective at controlling pain. Tramadol is thought to make the pet appear sleepy, so the owner believes there is no pain. Dogs do not break tramadol down into the M1 metabolite that helps with pain. It acts as a tricyclic antidepressant instead of pain medication. This author doesn't use tramadol anymore except occasionally in pets who don't sleep well at night. The author recommends against using tramadol for pain control when there are so many other excellent options. The author has seen many pets presented for euthanasia, and the only pain control they have tried is tramadol. At the very least, tramadol should not be used alone for pain control.

*Cherie T. Buisson, DVM, CHPV
90th FL VMA conf, 05:19*

Testing heartworm positive 30 days after treatment

Did you give the full dose of doxycycline? Doxycycline is administered to eliminate the *Wolbachia* bacteria prior to giving melarsomine. *Wolbachia* are necessary for embryogenesis and giving 4 weeks of doxycycline at 10 mg/