

Heartworm for dogs

Heartworm disease is endemic in Australia. Testing or treatment for heartworm is not a requirement to import your dog into Australia, however your dog is at risk of contacting the disease upon arrival.

Heartworm is caused by the micro-organism *Dirofilaria immitis* and is spread by infected mosquitoes biting your dog. The *Dirofilaria* larvae migrate to the heart and develop into worms. Adult worms can irritate, damage or prevent blood flow to the heart. Larvae produced by these worms can damage your pet's organs.

Various drugs are available to prevent heartworm. If you would like your dog to be placed on heartworm prevention medication please contact the quarantine station in writing requesting and authorising this treatment. A private veterinarian will bill you directly for all costs.