



## The Humane Connection Newsletter

### What exactly is Heartworm Disease?

Heartworm disease is a **serious disease** that results in severe lung disease, heart failure, other organ damage, and death in pets, mainly dogs, cats, and ferrets. It is caused by a parasitic worm called *Dirofilaria immitis*. The worms are spread through the bite of a mosquito. The dog is the definitive host, meaning that the worms mature into adults, mate, and produce offspring while living inside a dog.

Dogs like Chase (pictured), go through excruciating pain and treatment during the time they are dealing with the heartworm disease.



Heartworm prevention for dogs is an **important** concern for every pet owner. Providing essential care, and heartworm disease prevention for dogs is something every owner can and should do to keep their furry friends safe.

Consider this:

- Dogs have been diagnosed with heartworm disease in every state in the U.S.
- Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes, so any area of the country that has mosquitoes—even just a few of them—can also have heartworm disease.
- Dogs don't just need prevention during warm-weather months. Heartworm preventives work by treating heartworms that already infected the pet within the past month or longer; meanwhile, preventives need to be given on time, every time to be effective. That's why the American Heartworm Society recommends year-round heartworm prevention for pets.
- The American Heartworm Society estimates that more than a million dogs in the U.S. have heartworm disease—and heartworm disease can be fatal.

**We offer heartworm treatment options here at Suncoast Humane Society!**

---

### **Here's what you should expect if your furry friend tests positive:**

- Confirm the diagnosis. The treatment regimen for heartworm is both expensive and complex.
- Restrict exercise. Your dog's normal physical activities must be restricted as soon as the diagnosis is confirmed, because physical exertion increases the rate at which the heartworms cause damage in the heart and lungs. The more severe the symptoms, the less activity your dog should have.
- Stabilize your dog's disease. Before actual heartworm treatment can begin, your dog's condition may need to be stabilized with appropriate therapy. In severe cases of heartworm disease, or when a dog has another serious condition, the process can take several months.
- Administer treatment. Once your veterinarian has determined your dog is stable and ready for heartworm treatment, he or she will recommend a treatment protocol involving several steps. One of which is a series of shots into their lower spine area.
- Test (and prevent) for success. Approximately 6 months after treatment is completed, your veterinarian will perform a heartworm test to confirm that all heartworms have been eliminated. To avoid the possibility of your dog contracting heartworm disease again, you will want to administer heartworm prevention year-round for the rest of his life.



## CLINIC INFORMATION:



February 2023 Clinic Schedule:

**Mondays:** Surgeries for Suncoast Humane Society animals (including Foster)

**Tuesdays:** Surgeries for the Public

**Wednesdays:** Surgeries for the Public and Clinic Days

**Thursdays:** Surgeries for SHS & Public

**Fridays: Clinic**

**Please call and schedule your appointment. 941-474-7884 ex. 415  
or email our [Clinic Scheduling Department](#)**

## Upcoming Events:

MPM Auto March Madness  
Event  
Saturday March 11th @10am-  
6pm

There will be adorable pups  
there visiting and looking for  
their furever homes!

Food Trucks, Music & Fun!

(Click on the photo to learn  
more)



**MPM AUTO  
MARCH MADDNESS**

**Saturday  
March 11th  
10am- 6pm**

**AT OUR  
NORTH LOT**

**340 TAMiami  
TRAIL  
PORT CHARLOTTE**

JOIN US FOR  
FREE BEER & WINE

FREE CONCERT

FOOD TRUCKS

ADORABLE PUPS  
FOR ADOPTION

**SUNCOAST  
HUMANE SOCIETY**

PROCEEDS GO TO THE  
SUNCOAST HUMANE SOCIETY

**SPONSORED BY**

**SPECIAL LIVE  
MUSIC GUESTS**

**LEAD FOOT  
GREY**

**remarkable  
paige**

The poster features a vibrant green and black color scheme. At the top left is an orange sports car. The title 'MPM AUTO MARCH MADDNESS' is in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below the title, the event details are listed in green and white text. A black car is shown on the left, and a red sports car is on the right. The bottom section includes logos for Suncoast Humane Society, various sponsors like Epic and DK Moto, and logos for the live music guests, Lead Foot Grey and Remarkable Paige. A skull logo for Lead Foot Grey is also present.





## COMING SOON!

We are going to be releasing limited edition exclusive phone holder pop sockets. These adorable items are a great addition to your phone or tablet, making it easier to hold and also doubles as a stand! You can push it down flat after you're finished with it to keep our of the way!

We have a limited amount that will be available starting at the end of March.

---

## Our Mission

*Because pets need people and people need pets, Suncoast Humane Society provides sheltering to the most vulnerable animals, affordable prevention services to the community and ongoing support for pets and the people who love them.*

**#LoveThemAll**

---



### Maximize your impact

You can help make life saving changes happen for so many animals by considering us for your legacy gift and Free Will plan.

[Free Will](#)

[Donate](#)

[Foster](#)

[Volunteer](#)

#### Follow us!



#### Suncoast Humane Society

6781 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL 34224

941-474-7884 | [www.humane.org](http://www.humane.org)

EIN 23-7174193

*Suncoast Humane Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving Southwest Florida including Charlotte & Sarasota Counties, Boca Grande and beyond. No goods or services were given in consideration for this contribution unless expressly noted. All gifts to Suncoast Humane Society (EIN 23-7174193), a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization, are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. A copy of the official registration (CH5561) and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll- free 1-800-435-7352 within the State or visit the website [www.fdacs.gov/ConsumerServices](http://www.fdacs.gov/ConsumerServices). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.*

Suncoast Humane Society 6781 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL 34224