

# The Tiniest Bite Can Be The **Deadliest**



Recent events have drawn worldwide attention to the dangers of mosquitoes and the horrific consequences of the diseases they carry and transmit. What most people don't know is mosquitoes are *vectors* that can also inflict serious damage to our dogs. A vector-control approach has been proven effective in controlling mosquito-borne diseases in humans, and there are proven methods that protect our beloved dogs.

Mosquitoes are the primary vector of heartworm disease, malaria and West Nile virus.

A single dog can be bitten over 80 times<sup>1</sup> and it only takes one mosquito to transmit a heartworm infection from one dog to the next<sup>2</sup>.

Mosquitoes can reproduce wherever there is standing water and are active throughout the day and year-round.

Female mosquitoes must feed on blood several times in order to lay eggs and are capable of laying several hundred eggs.

More than 70 species of mosquitoes are capable of transmitting heartworm and are found in most geographical areas<sup>3</sup>.

Preventing mosquitoes from feeding on dogs and routine use of a prescribed heartworm preventive is an effective approach to helping stop the spread of heartworms to dogs.

1. Capelli et al., Risk of canine and human exposure to *Dirofilaria immitis* infected mosquitoes in endemic areas of Italy *Parasites & Vectors* 2013, 6:60  
 2. American Heartworm Society, (n.d.), Heartworm Basics. Retrieved July 20, 2016, from <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources/heartworm-basics>  
 3. Companion Animal Parasite Council, (n.d.), Canine Heartworm. Retrieved July 20, 2016, from <http://www.cappcvt.org/logo-recommendations/canine-heartworm/>

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