

SOUTH FEDERAL ANIMAL HOSPITAL

1100 SOUTH FEDERAL HIGHWAY

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316

CLIENT EDUCATION SERIES

WHY DO I NEED TO TEST MY DOG FOR HEARTWORMS EVERY YEAR?

This is a very good question, and one that we often are asked. Our office follows the recommendations of the American Heartworm Society of annual testing for all dogs. These are the reasons for this recommendation:

- **Test Limitations:** *While heartworms tests currently used are excellent, they have limitations due to the fact that: 1. Immature and all-male infections are not detected. 2. Infections with small numbers of females are frequently missed.*
- **Compliance:** *Data indicates that client compliance (purchase and administration) is below par; Even veterinarians, and veterinary technicians are occasionally late in administering preventives or forget altogether.*
- **Variables:** *Dogs may not receive the preventive in a timely manner (or at all), or may vomit or expectorate the tablet without the owner knowing.*
- **Finally,** the heartworm test that we perform in our office also tests your dog for four (4) tick-borne diseases, some of them are common in our area.

Please do not hesitate to discuss this or any other topics with our veterinarians or staff members.