



# Canine heartworm disease treatment guidelines

POWERED BY THE ZOETIS PARASITICIDES PORTFOLIO IN LINE WITH THE 2024 AHS GUIDELINES

## DAY 0

## DAY 1-59

## DAY 60-119

### DAY 0

#### Diagnosis & pre-treatment

- Verify heartworm-positive diagnosis with separate microfilaria (MF) quantification and antigen (Ag) tests

**vetscan Rapid**  
Flex4

- If MF are detected, pre-treat with antihistamines and glucocorticosteroids to reduce anaphylaxis risk. (Monitor for 8 hours for reactions)
- Begin activity restriction based on patient's symptoms
- Administer heartworm disease preventative with flea and tick control to protect against further internal and external parasites

**SimparicaTRIO** – or – **ProHeart 12** **Simparica**  
(sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel chewable tablets) (moxidectin) (sarolaner) Chewables

Prevention tip! It is recommended to continue monthly heartworm disease, flea and tick medications to ensure dogs are protected throughout treatment.

**SimparicaTRIO**  
(sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel chewable tablets)

**ProHeart 12**  
(moxidectin)

**Simparica**  
(sarolaner) Chewables



### DAY 1-30

#### Administer Doxycycline course

- Ensure full completion of 28-day doxycycline course (10 mg/kg BID) to treat Wolbachia endosymbionts
- If symptomatic, prescribe prednisone at 0.5 mg/kg BID 1st week, 0.5 mg/kg SID 2nd week, 0.5 mg/kg EOD 3rd and 4th weeks

### Day 31-59

#### Waiting period

- One month wait after doxycycline course ends allows time for Wolbachia depletion
- Maintain activity restriction
- Continue monthly heartworm disease preventative, and flea and tick control—either Simparica Trio, or Simparica if ProHeart 12 was given Day 0

**SimparicaTRIO** – or – **Simparica**  
(sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel chewable tablets) (sarolaner) Chewables



### DAY 60

#### First Diroban injection **DIROBAN** (melarsomine dihydrochloride)

- Administer 1st injection (2.5 mg/kg intramuscularly IM)
- Monitor for post-injection reactions
- Prescribe pain control
- If symptomatic, prescribe prednisone course again
- Enforce strict activity limits: cage rest, leash walking only, etc.
- Continue monthly heartworm disease preventative, and flea and tick control—either Simparica Trio, or Simparica if ProHeart 12 was given Day 0

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(sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel chewable tablets) (sarolaner) Chewables

### DAY 90

#### Second Diroban injection

- Administer 2nd injection (2.5 mg/kg IM)
- Monitor for post-injection reactions
- Continue pain control and prednisone as needed
- Continue strict activity limits
- Continue monthly heartworm disease preventative, and flea and tick control—either Simparica Trio, or Simparica if ProHeart 12 was given Day 0

**SimparicaTRIO** – or – **Simparica**  
(sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel chewable tablets) (sarolaner) Chewables

### DAY 91

#### Third Diroban injection

- Administer 3rd injection (2.5 mg/kg on opposite side of epaxial muscle)
- Monitor for post-injection reactions

### DAY 92-119

#### Waiting Period

- One month wait after Diroban injections
- Continue pain control and strict activity limits for 4 weeks



## DAY 120–365

### DAY 120

#### Follow-up testing

- Test for microfilaria with quantification to assess response to therapy.
- Gradually return to normal activity over the next 4 weeks if not symptomatic
- Continue monthly heartworm disease preventative, and flea and tick control—either Simparica Trio, or Simparica if ProHeart 12 was given Day 0

**SimparicaTRIO**  
(sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel  
chewable tablets)

– or –

**Simparica**  
(sarolaner) (Chewables)

### Day 365

#### Annual check-up

- Perform heartworm screening (Ag and MF tests)
- If Ag-positive, repeat treatment may be needed
- Continue pain control and activity restriction as needed
- Administer chosen heartworm disease preventative, and flea and tick control

**SimparicaTRIO**  
(sarolaner, moxidectin, and pyrantel  
chewable tablets)

– or –

**ProHeart 12**  
(moxidectin)

**Simparica**  
(sarolaner) (Chewables)



#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

##### Simparica Trio

**See full Prescribing Information** at [SimparicaTrioPI.com](http://SimparicaTrioPI.com). Use with caution in dogs with a history of seizures. Simparica Trio contains sarolaner, a member of the isoxazoline class which has been associated with neurologic adverse reactions including tremors, ataxia, and seizures in dogs with or without a history of neurologic disorders. The safe use of Simparica Trio has not been evaluated in breeding, pregnant, or lactating dogs. The most frequently reported adverse reactions in clinical trials were vomiting and diarrhea.

##### Simparica

**See full Prescribing Information** at [SimparicaPI.com](http://SimparicaPI.com). Simparica is for use only in dogs 6 months of age and older. Simparica, which contains sarolaner, a member of the isoxazoline class, may cause neurologic signs such as tremors, unsteadiness and/or seizures in dogs with or without a history of neurologic disorders. Simparica has not been evaluated in pregnant, breeding, or lactating dogs. The most common adverse reactions in clinical trials were vomiting and diarrhea.

##### Proheart 12

**See full Prescribing Information** at [ProHeart12PI.com](http://ProHeart12PI.com). Use ProHeart 12 in dogs 12 months of age or older. Do not administer to dogs that are sick, debilitated, underweight, have a history of weight loss, or to those previously found to be hypersensitive to the drug. Hypersensitivity reactions may occur in some dogs when ProHeart 12 is administered alone or with vaccines. Anaphylactic and anaphylactoid reactions can result in death and should be treated immediately with the same measures used to treat hypersensitivity reactions to vaccines and other injectable products. The most common reported side effects in clinical trials were vomiting, lethargy, diarrhea, and anorexia. People should avoid inhalation, contact with eyes, or accidental self-injection. Certification is required before veterinarians and staff administer ProHeart 12.

##### Diroban

**See full Prescribing Information** at [DirobanPI.com](http://DirobanPI.com) for additional safety information and precautions. Diroban is for use in dogs only. Do not use in dogs with very severe (Class 4) heartworm disease. Avoid human exposure. Consult a physician in cases of accidental human exposure by any route. **Diroban should be administered by deep intramuscular injection in the lumbar (epaxial) muscles (L3 – L5) ONLY. DO NOT USE IN ANY OTHER MUSCLE GROUP. DO NOT USE INTRAVENOUSLY. Care should be taken to avoid superficial injection or leakage.** Safety for use in breeding, pregnant, or lactating animals has not been determined. Common side effects include injection site irritation (accompanied by pain, swelling, tenderness and reluctance to move), coughing/gagging, depression/lethargy, anorexia/inappetence, fever, lung congestion, and vomiting. All patients should be monitored during treatment and for up to 24 hours after the last injection.

#### REFERENCES:

1. American Heartworm Society Canine Guidelines for the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) Infection in Dogs. American Heartworm Society. 2024.