



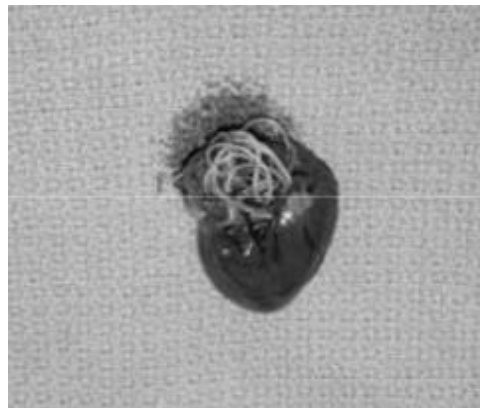
Practice Limited to Birds, Reptiles and Exotics

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AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES
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HEARTWORM DISEASE IN FERRETS

- Affects all ages.
- Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes.
- Affects both ferrets that live inside and outside.



Symptoms

- Weight loss
- Dyspnea (difficulty breathing)
- Increased eosinophil counts (as noted on a Complete Blood Count - CBC)
- Green urine

Diagnosis

- *Presumptive diagnosis* can be obtained from lab data (increased eosinophil count), physical exam and presence of enlarged heart or fluid in the chest on X-ray. **Not all heartworm snap tests are accurate on ferrets!**
- *Confirmation* involves identifying heartworms on cardiac ultrasound

Recommended Treatment

Only one drug has been used with continued success (IMMITICIDE)

Prevention

We highly recommend dilute IVERMECTIN liquid given orally once a month. It is relatively inexpensive, yet invaluable to the health of your ferret.

We strongly recommend annual health examinations on all exotics!

