

Puppy Love

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Newsletter of *Belle more Dachshunds*

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Don McPherson was raised in a family that loved and respected all animals, so when he saw a picture of an abandoned eight-pound chihuahua he instantly knew what he had to do. He drove straight to the nearby town and rescued little Petey. McPherson anticipated that Petey would have medical issues, so his first stop as a new dad was to his local veterinarian. Dad was right, Petey had hookworm, along with other parasites and was anemic. The vet started treatment for all his maladies and Petey's iron level improved. Petey's improved health enabled him to be neutered but not long after surgery blood appeared in his urine indicating a bigger problem. The vet performed an echocardiogram on Petey and discovered a massive cluster of heartworms in the right side of Petey's heart, indicating a life-threatening complication known as caval syndrome. Recognizing the urgency of the condition, the vet recommended McPherson take Petey to Texas A & M for surgery. That same night McPherson drove to College Station for Petey's surgery. The surgery was successful after the doctors removed 58 heartworms from little eight-pound Petey. Despite his challenging past, Texas A & M veterinarians agree that Petey has a bright future just around the corner. McPherson said, "He's close to being as smart as my Jack Russell. You can watch his brain work and see him figure things out. I can't wait to see him totally done with his heartworm treatment because he's got so much energy." McPherson is also excited to see Petey play with other dogs, who have quickly become his new best friends.

Your Vet's Prescription is the Best Protection!

Heartworm preventives come in different forms, including monthly chewable pills and topical "spot on" medications, as well as injectable medication that is given every six to twelve months. Don't feel protected because you are in a colder climate. They are still there. Be vigilant! Your little doxie is depending on you.



Nescaea is a beautiful little girl who is loved and cherished by her family in Virginia.

GAMBLE?

Heartworm is a Serious and Nationwide Danger to Dogs! It appears in all states, including Alaska, and is becoming more prevalent throughout the world. Vet offices are reporting that one out of eight dogs have heartworms.

THE ALARM!

Heartworm disease is spread by that pesky varmint: the MOSQUITO! It has been confirmed to exist in all fifty states, including Alaska. Twenty-nine percent of veterinarians nationwide reported rising rates in their practice.



PREVENTION

Heartworm Disease is spread when a mosquito bites an infected animal then its bite passes its larva to a new host. Recovery is difficult, requires a delicate surgery and is usually fatal without the surgery. Prevention is best!