Hundreds of dogs go through heartworm treatment with little to no issues.

This information is being shared with you so you know what to expect should you choose to adopt me.

Unfortunately, my prior owner did not provide the necessary care needed to ensure I remained heartworm negative. Because I was just recently rescued by DFW Rescue Me, they have not had a chance to treat me for my heartworms yet. Heartworms are not contagious. No other person or animal can catch them from me. I was bitten by an infected mosquito that gave me the heartworms. If not treated, I will have a slow and very painful death since the heartworms are slowly eating away at my heart. But the good news is this condition is treatable, and once treatment is completed, heartworms can be prevented by just giving me a monthly heartworm preventative chew.

There are some very important things you need to consider before completing an adoption application and adopting me. It will take an extra commitment by you to get me to the DFW Rescue Me designated vet. However, DFW Rescue Me will pay for all my treatments, medications and heartworm preventative chews during my treatment period. You will only need to drive me to and from my treatments and take extra special care of me during this time.

Treatments are scheduled by our Medical Coordinator, Tiffany, and she will help you through the process.

Treatment consists of:

- At home, we start the pretreatment with 30 days of Doxycycline, a broad-spectrum antibiotic.
- One heartworm preventative chew (Heartgard Plus) per month.
- After completing the course of Doxycycline, I will start the actual treatment at the vet. This consists of an injection of medication into my large hip muscle and vet observation. It is important that my injection starts promptly after I finish my course of Doxycycline. Tiffany will work with you to schedule the injection with our vet.
- I will be cleared to go home the same day, and I will be sent home with a bottle of Prednisone that must be given over the next 30 days per the directions on the bottle.
- AFTER CARE: There are specific precautions that you will need to ensure happens after my injection for the next 90 days. This includes: no long walks, no rough play, no running, leashed potty walks, and crate rest. Please try to keep me as calm as possible. If needed, our vet can prescribe a sedative to help with keeping me calm. The reason for these precautions are important because as the medication from the injection kills the heartworms, the worm bodies start to decompose and are reabsorbed by my body. Reducing my activity levels and keeping my heart rate from elevating will help the

worm bodies not to be forced into the tiny blood vessels of my lungs and causing complications.
• Coughing is a sign of a potential complication. If I start coughing, please contact Jim with DFW Rescue Me at 940-465-4688 immediately. He will let you know what you need to do for me.

Thirty days after the first injection is given, I will go back to the vet for my second treatment and be given two additional injections given 24 hours apart plus vet observation. I will stay overnight with the vet for one night. I will be ready for pickup the next day before 5:30PM. Please ensure you follow the same after care protocol. I will need to remain on crate rest and restricted activity for the next 6-8 weeks following my last set of injections. Please ensure you give me my monthly heartworm preventative chew (provided by DFW Rescue Me).

Tiffany will contact you six months after the second treatment to schedule a heartworm recheck test to ensure I am heartworm negative at that point. It is rare, but I may still test positive if my worm load was high. The vet may recommend additional medication or treatment if the recheck shows I'm still heartworm positive.

Other things you need to know:
• Heartgard Plus is the only safe monthly heartworm preventative I may take while going through my heartworm treatment. Please do not give me another brand of heartworm preventative.
• I will need to remain on monthly heartworm preventative for life with annual heartworm tests to ensure that I do not become heartworm positive again.
• Please remember the heartworm treatment is painful for me, and I may not feel like my normal self during the whole process from pre-treatment until the end of treatment.

If you choose to adopt me, I promise I'll be worth the extra effort. You will be giving me a "new leash on life" and I will love you forever!

Tiffany Chen
Medical Coordinator