

# Heartgard®

(ivermectin)

Chewables  
for Cats

## CHEWABLES

**CAUTION:** Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

**INDICATIONS:** For use in cats to prevent feline heartworm disease by eliminating the tissue stage of heartworm larvae (*Dirofilaria immitis*) for a month (30 days) after infection, and for the removal and control of adult and immature hookworms (*Ancylostoma tubaeforme* and *A. braziliense*).

**DOSAGE:** HEARTGARD® (ivermectin) Chewables for Cats should be administered orally at monthly intervals at the recommended minimum dose level of 24 mcg of ivermectin per kg (10.9 mcg/lb.) of body weight. The recommended dosage schedule for prevention of feline heartworm disease and control of hookworms is as follows:

Cat Weight lbs	HEARTGARD for Cats Chewables per month	Ivermectin content
up to 5	1	55 mcg
5 to 15	1	165 mcg

For cats over 15 lb., use the appropriate combination of chewables.

HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats is recommended for use in cats 6 weeks of age and older.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Remove only one Chewable at a time from the foil-backed blister card. Return the card with the remaining Chewables to its box to protect the product from light. HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats can be offered to the cat by hand or may be added to a small amount of cat food. If manual dosing is required, the Chewable should be broken into pieces for administration. Food should be routinely available during the day of treatment administration. If cats are fasted, or if the Chewable is not broken into pieces for manual dosing, then reduced absorption may result. A relationship between reduced absorption and reduced efficacy has not been established.

Care should be taken to see that the cat consumes the complete dose. Treated animals should be observed for a few minutes after administration to ensure that part of the dose is not lost or rejected. If it is suspected that any of the dose has been lost, redosing with a new Chewable is recommended. Fragments of Chewables have occasionally been observed in the feces of some cats; efficacy of the product was not adversely affected.

HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats should be given at monthly intervals when mosquitoes potentially carrying infective heartworm larvae are active. The initial dose must be given within a month (30 days) after the cat's first exposure to mosquitoes. The final dose must be given within a month (30 days) after

the cat's last exposure to mosquitoes. For optimal performance, HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats must be given once a month on or about the same date. If treatment is delayed, whether by a few days or many, immediate treatment with HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats and resumption of the recommended dosing regimen will minimize the opportunity for development of adult heartworm.

It is recommended that cats should be tested for existing heartworm infection prior to starting treatment with HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats. Cats already infected with adult heartworms can safely be given HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats monthly to prevent further infections.

Monthly treatment with HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats also provides effective removal and control of adult and immature hookworms (*A. tubaeforme* and *A. braziliense*).

**SAFETY:** In the clinical studies involving more than 3000 doses of HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats, observations reported within 24 hours of treatment included vomiting in  $\leq 0.3\%$  and diarrhea in  $\leq 0.2\%$  of the doses administered. There were no statistical differences between HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats and the product vehicle (control) for these observations.

A wide margin of safety was demonstrated in clinical trials at the recommended dose level in cats and kittens 6 weeks of age and older and in laboratory studies in cats with circulating microfilariae of *D. immitis*. A wide margin of safety has also been demonstrated at 3 times the recommended dose in pregnant or breeding queens and breeding toms. No adverse effects were observed in either male or female cats or their offspring in breeding studies. A 30-fold safety margin over the minimum recommended dosage was established in a single dose tolerance study. In growing kittens dosed monthly for 8 consecutive doses, one cat given 5 times the market dose vomited and a second cat in this group experienced diarrhea within 24 hours of the initial treatment. In clinical trials, many commonly used flea control products, anthelmintics, vaccines, antibiotics and steroid preparations were administered with HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats without incident.

**Keep this and all drugs out of the reach of children.** In case of ingestion by humans, clients should be advised to contact a physician immediately.

**STABILITY:** HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats are stable for 2 years when stored below 77°F (25°C) and protected from light. Store at controlled room temperature of 68°F - 77°F (20°C - 25°C). Excursions between 59°F - 86°F (15°C - 30°C) are permitted.

**HOW SUPPLIED:** HEARTGARD Chewables for Cats is available in two dosage strengths (see DOSAGE section) for cats of different weights. Each strength comes in a convenient carton of 6 chewables, packed 10 cartons per tray.

For customer assistance, please contact Merial at 1-888-637-4251.



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