

Flea, Tick, and Heartworm Prevention

Information sourced from: <https://www.1800petmeds.com/education/heartworm-flea-combo-medicine-8.html>

Combination [heartworm and flea prevention medications](#) make it possible to prevent heartworms along with protection from common pests including fleas, and in some products, ticks, mites and intestinal parasites — all in one medication.





















The importance of heartworm prevention is undeniable. The American Heartworm Society recommends **year-round heartworm prevention** for cats and dogs, without missing even one dose.

As a responsible pet parent, parasite prevention including heartworm protection may seem overwhelming. However, recent innovations in the science of heartworm prevention have made it easier than ever to protect your pet from harmful parasites with a single heartworm and flea pill or application.

Combination heartworm preventatives offer comprehensive protection

Administering a once-a-month combination product will protect your pet from heartworms, fleas and several types of intestinal worms in a single dose! That's a lot easier than remembering to use several products at different times, helping reduce the chances of missing a dose. Taking a single medication to prevent multiple parasites is easier on your pet, too.

Compare: [NexGard® PLUS](#), [Simparica TRIO](#), [Trifexis](#), [Revolution](#), [Revolution Plus](#), [Sentinel](#), [Revolution Plus](#), [Sentinel Spectrum](#), [Advantage Multi](#), and [Bravecto Plus](#).

Comparing Combination Heartworm Preventatives	 NexGard® PLUS	 Simparica TRIO	 Trifexis	 Revolution	 Sentinel	 Revolution Plus	 Sentinel Spectrum	 Advantage Multi	 Bravecto Plus
For pet type				 				 	
Application	Chewable	Chewable	Chewable	Topical	Chewable	Topical	Chewable	Topical	Topical
Heartworms & Fleas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hookworms & Roundworms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Approved for puppies & kittens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whipworms	no	✓	✓	no	✓	no	✓	no	no
Flea Eggs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	no
Tapeworms	no	no	no	no	no	no	✓	no	no
Ear Mites	no	no	no	✓	no	✓	no	no	no
Ticks	✓	no	✓	no	✓	no	no	✓	✓

Convenience

Combination heartworm medications are available in several forms, including tablets and topically applied formulas. This variety of administration options makes it easier and **more convenient** to choose the right one for your pet. Those pets that do not take tablets well will likely be more co-operative if given heartworm prevention topically.

Benefits of all-in-one heartworm and flea prevention

Before the development of combination heartworm medicine, pet parents' only choice was to give their pets separate products for the prevention of heartworms, fleas, ticks and intestinal parasites. This can be inconvenient, confusing and expensive, especially for multiple-pet homes. These innovative all-in-one protection options now available are:

- Affordable
- Convenient
- Fast-acting
- Easy to administer
- Long-lasting
- Effective in the prevention of multiple pests

Topical heartworm and flea medications, which include [Revolution](#), [Revolution Plus for Cats](#), and [Advantage Multi](#), are administered as a monthly spot-on application. They have the added advantage of being suitable for pets that may not readily accept chewable tablets or have dietary restrictions.

Oral combination heartworm preventatives, which include [NexGard Plus](#), [Sentinel](#), [Sentinel Spectrum](#), [Trifexis](#), [Simparica TRIO](#), are administered as a chewable, flavored tablet that dogs enjoy as a monthly treat. Chewable tablets, as a bonus, require no drying time and are preferred for dogs that frequently swim or bathe.

Choosing the best heartworm and flea prevention for your pet

When choosing a combination heartworm preventative, consider your pet's lifestyle and what you want to protect your pet against most.

Choosing a heartworm and flea medicine for dogs will depend on if your dog spends most of the time indoors or outdoors. If it's unlikely that your pet could be exposed to ticks, [Trifexis](#) (a very popular flea heartworm pill for dogs) or [Sentinel Spectrum](#) may be your two best heartworm and flea prevention options. If you're concerned about ticks, [Revolution](#) provides heartworm protection and will kill ticks, along with fleas and their eggs, roundworms and hookworms.

Choosing a heartworm and flea prevention medication for cats will also depend on if your cat is primarily a housecat or spends some time outside. If you're looking for a comprehensive combination heartworm and flea protection that will also protect your cat from roundworms, hookworms and whipworms [Advantage Multi](#) is the ideal choice. However, if your cat also requires protection from ticks, [Revolution](#) is a combination heartworm preventative that kills fleas and flea eggs, ticks, roundworms and hookworms in a single topical application. All of these combination heartworm preventatives are available by prescription only, so when seeing your veterinarian for your pet's yearly checkup, be sure to ask about your options. Your vet will be able to help you choose one based on your pet's specific needs, and will perform a heartworm test prior to writing a prescription.

What if my pet has heartworms?

If your pet is diagnosed with heartworms, your veterinarian will prescribe a treatment protocol that must be completed before giving your pet any type of heartworm preventative. Unfortunately, there is no definitive treatment protocol available for cats, but there are several palliative options including surgery in extreme cases. [Heartworm treatment](#) can be harsh, expensive and traumatic to your pet's health. This is why comprehensive heartworm prevention is so very important.