



## **For Immediate Release**

### **For More Information, Contact:**

R. Kelly Schwalbe

BCS Communications

816-474-3166

[Kelly@bcsthinktank.com](mailto:Kelly@bcsthinktank.com)

**NOTE TO MEDIA:** Following is a statement from the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) regarding industry concerns about the efficacy of heartworm preventives. Any new research or updated information on this issue may be found on the CAPC Web site at [www.capcvet.org](http://www.capcvet.org) as it becomes available.

### **CAPC Statement Regarding Heartworm Preventive Efficacy**

There is a growing body of anecdotal reports and experimental evidence that currently available heartworm preventives (macrocyclic lactones) may not be completely efficacious in preventing heartworm infection in dogs. Reports of resistance have resulted in confusion about how best to prevent infection in veterinary patients.

The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recognizes that this is an important and emerging problem. At this time, reports of resistance appear to be confined to dogs from the south-central United States where dogs have become infected while on preventives or remain infected following treatments.

However, because it is clear that the vast majority of heartworm-positive dogs result from failure of compliance rather than product resistance, veterinarians should continue to recommend the use of year-round heartworm preventives as the best way to prevent infections. Veterinarians should also continue to emphasize the need for heartworm diagnostic tests at recommended intervals and appropriate times.

In keeping with the CAPC goal of collaboration with other groups that share the common interest of pet health, the CAPC will continue to monitor ongoing research and make updated recommendations on best preventive strategies as additional information becomes available.

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*The Companion Animal Parasite Council ([www.capcvet.org](http://www.capcvet.org)) is an independent not-for-profit foundation comprised of parasitologists, veterinarians, and medical, public health and other professionals that provides information for the optimal control of internal and external parasites that threaten the health of pets and people. Formed in 2002, the CAPC works to help veterinary professionals and pet owners develop the best practices in parasite management that protect pets from parasitic infections and reduce the risk of zoonotic parasite transmission.*

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