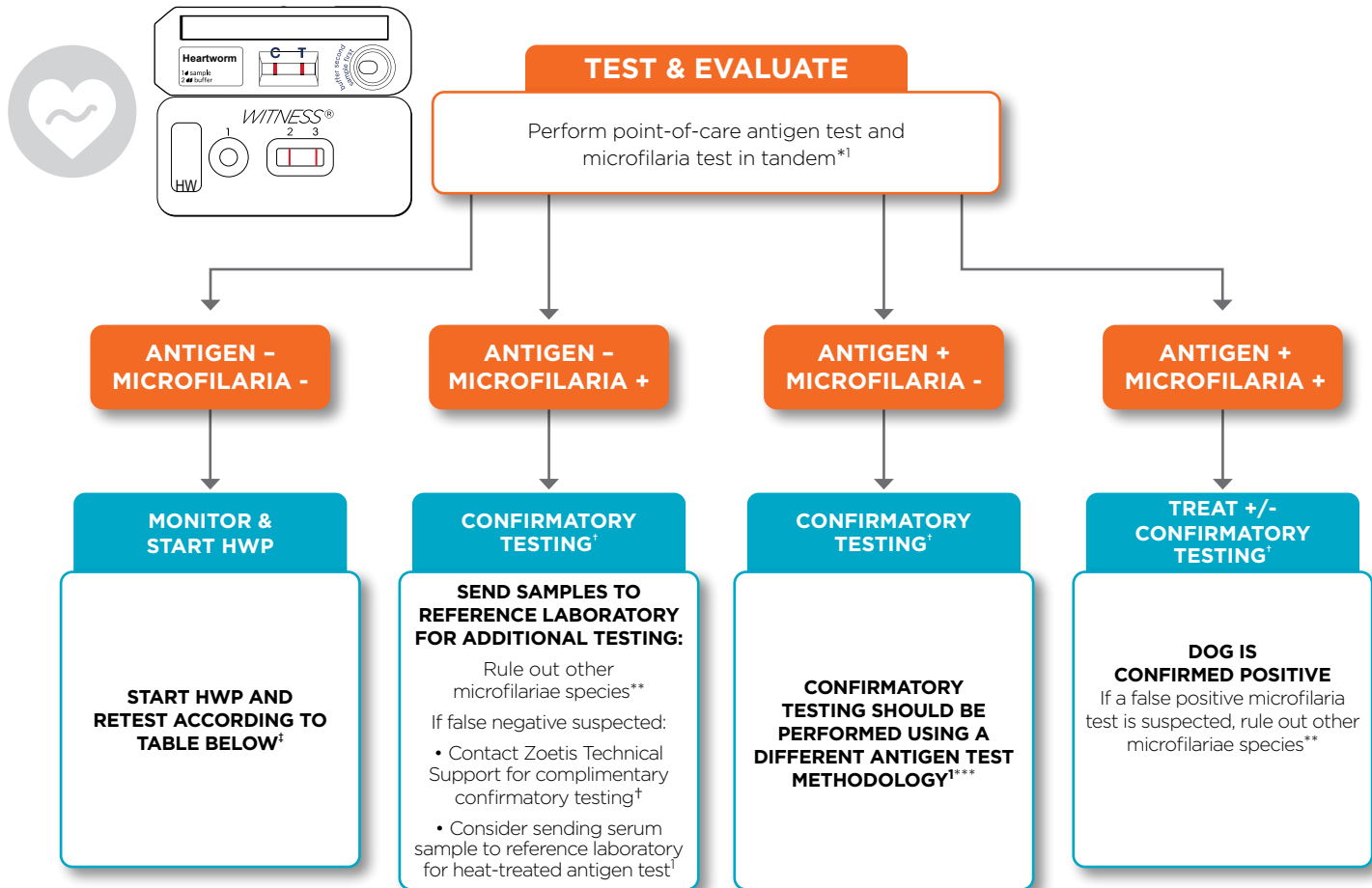


Canine Heartworm Screening - What Happens Next?

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Recommended HWT Schedule

Clinical Scenario	Initial Test	Follow up Test 1	Follow up Test 2
< 7 months of age	Do not test; Start HWP	1 year of age [§]	1 year from initial test and annually thereafter
≥ 7 months of age No or unknown history of HWP	Test now & start HWP	6 months from initial test	1 year from initial test and annually thereafter
≥ 7 months of age Switching to different HWP	Test now & start HWP	6 months from initial test	1 year from initial test and annually thereafter
Missed HWP dose	Restart HWP now & test 6 months after missed dose	6 months from initial test	1 year from initial test and annually thereafter

HWP = Heartworm disease preventive
HWT = Heartworm Testing

*Ancillary diagnostic testing (thoracic radiographs ± echocardiography) should be used in conjunction with heartworm diagnostic tests when heartworm disease is suspected regardless of diagnostic rapid test results.

**Microfilariae species can be identified by morphological methods via a Modified Knott's test and/or by a PCR test at reference laboratories and/or academic institutions.

***If history, clinical signs, and radiographic findings are consistent with heartworm disease, antigen confirmatory testing may not be necessary.

[†]Complimentary confirmatory testing available for VETSCAN or WITNESS Heartworm Rapid Test through Zoetis Technical Support. Confirmatory testing can be requested at zoetis.com/confirmatory-testing or by calling us at 1-888-Zoetis-1, option 5.

¹Re-test in 12 months for annual screening

[§]Best practice is to test 6 months from initial administration; however, performing the first heartworm test at 1 year of age may be more practical, assuming proper preventive compliance, since it coincides with 1-year physical examination and core vaccine booster series.

REFERENCES:

1. Current canine guidelines for the diagnosis, prevention, and management of heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) infection in dogs (Revised 2018). American Heartworm Society. 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/veterinary-resources/american-heartworm-society-guidelines>

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