

A Novel Heartworm Prevention Strategy



Introduction

The Inner Pup (TIP)

Genie and Lindsay Goldring were not comfortable with the trends they saw – too many animals in shelters or on the streets. They couldn't wrap their heads around the challenges shelters faced and realized shelters could only do so much. Shouldn't the solution for animals begin with people? In 2015 they founded The Inner Pup (TIP) with a plan for on-the-streets outreach and humane education in neighborhoods with little or no access to pet resources. These areas have a high number of animal control visits, dog fighting, abuse, and animal surrender is common.

TIP is a vibrant team of positive animal welfare warriors who are passionate about shifting the center of animal welfare back into communities and into responsible family ownership.



The Need

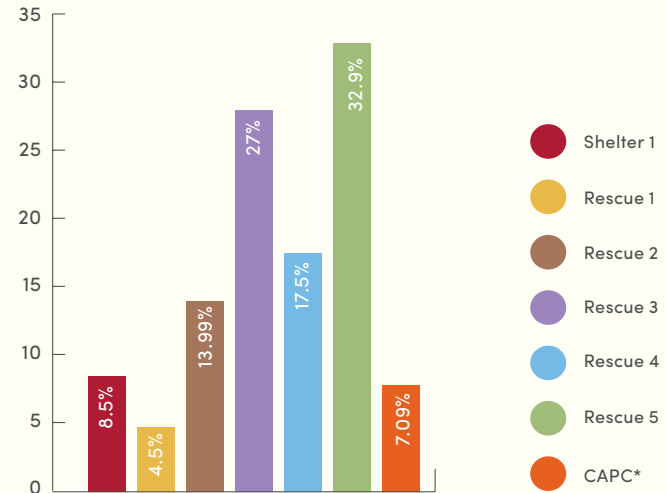
Our Community

New Orleans is ground zero for heartworms because of the climate and the 12-month mosquito season. New Orleans also has a large percentage of low-income dog owners who lack economic and/or geographic access to veterinary care. TIP's first Heartworm Zero Clinic was held in April 2016. Since then, we've conducted 40 monthly heartworm prevention clinics. Eligibility for our low-cost clinics is the inability to afford veterinary care. We want to share how we produce these clinics because we wish other organizations in locations at risk of heartworm disease, to initiate similar clinics.



Percentage of HW+ Dogs in Louisiana

2018 data on heartworm disease prevalence from six major local rescues/shelters and The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC*) reports from vet clinics in Louisiana



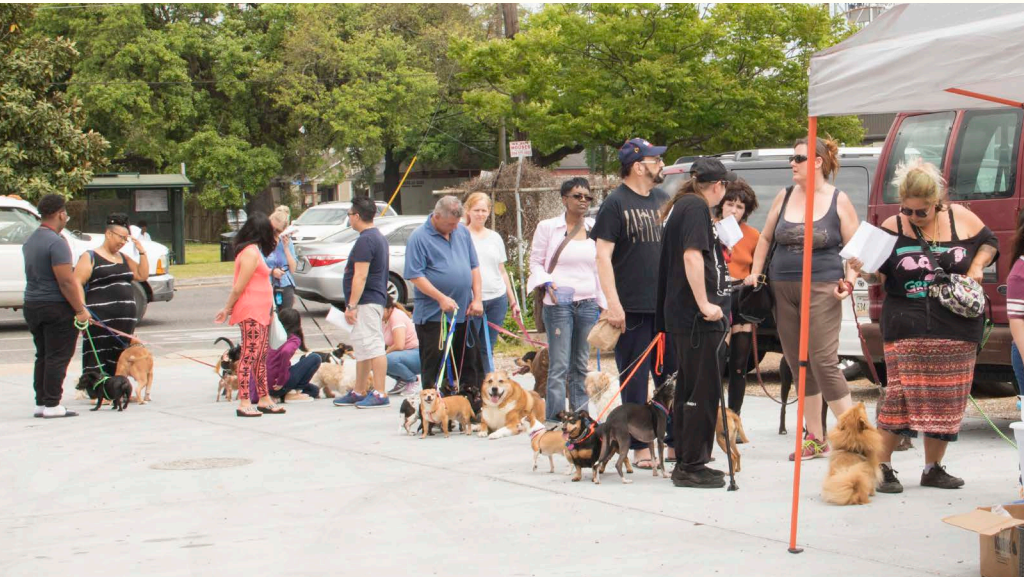
This data has several exceptions: testing not done; lack of consistency testing/reporting; cost of test inhibits testing; rescues not using software; cherry picking intake, hw+ dogs rejected; dogs returned to owners not tested; poor communication between rescues/veterinarians

*Vet clinics see a much lower percentage of hw+ dogs than we see in dogs living in high risk zip codes.

Real Dogs from Real Homes

Our Heartworm Zero Clinics

At each monthly pop-up clinic, we have a veterinarian, 2-3 vet techs, and about ten other volunteers to welcome 85-130 dogs and their people. We host our clinics at different sites, including community anchors like local pet stores, churches, grocery stores, firehouses, and even a tire shop. We are proud of our relationships with community organizations and local government officials who spread the word about our clinics.



Paying it forward: Our National Handbook



We created the Heartworm Zero handbook because we can't be everywhere. This web-based initiative will allow any organization to adopt our clinic process. And it's all free, and usable, right out of the box. Stay tuned for a Fall 2019 launch at theinnerpup.org.

Our Heartworm Zero Treatment Study

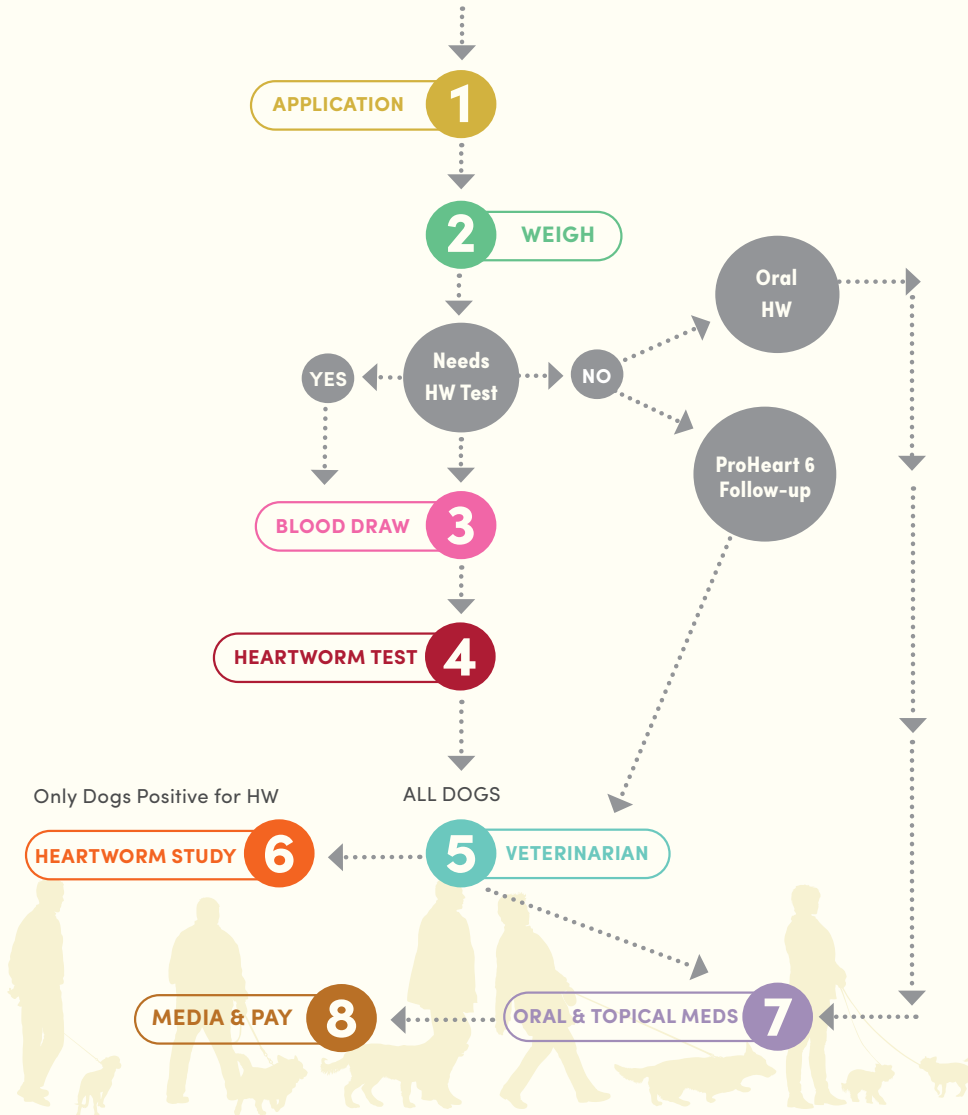
We knew we had to do something for heartworm positive dogs! It was devastating to the dogs' families and all of us, knowing these heartworm positive dogs faced suffering and premature death if we did nothing. So our vets helped us implement a treatment protocol for dogs with no other option.



Clinic Flow

People arrive for the clinic and form one line. Generally, clients and dogs start to show up 30-45 minutes before the clinic start time. The first step in the process is to fill out an application.

START HERE: DOGS IN LINE



Clinic Detailed Steps

1

APPLICATION PROCESS

Greet clients, get application filled out, explain services, how the process flows, and get client to next step.

2

WEIGH/SCALE MANAGEMENT

Get an accurate weight for each dog to ensure proper medication dosing

3

BLOOD DRAW

Safe, rapid blood draw for purpose of determining heartworm status to provide client prevention options if negative and treatment options if positive.

4

HEARTWORM TEST

The medical scribe records details of choice of HW prevention and results of HW test for every dog who is heartworm tested at the clinic. These notes are especially important as they will be referenced post clinic.

5

VETERINARIAN/ MEDICAL TABLE

Administer ProHeart6 injections to heartworm negative dogs. Approve heartworm positive dogs for Heartworm Study. Answer medical questions from clients.

6

HEARTWORM STUDY

Donations to the KadieBear Treatment Study Fund subsidize the costs of medicines and payment to our Study Director. We could not be sustainable without the client's participation in the costs of a year of medicine, testing, and follow-up.

7

ORAL & TOPICAL MEDICINES

Give client oral and/or topical heartworm and flea medicines.

8

MEDIA & PAY

Accept payment for services and take photos for clinic and social media.



Our Results

Per clinic we saw an average of 87 dogs and gave out an average of 329 months of heartworm prevention medicine (see Table below). Of the 13 dogs who completed the 12 month study protocol, 12 are now heartworm negative (92.3%).

I. PREVENTION	2016	2017	2018	(thru June) 2019
Number of Clinics	10	13	12	6
Number receiving HW prevention	842	1,141	1045	505
Months of HW prevention	3,434	3,877	4,206	1,995
ProHeart6 Injections	n/a	307	297	160

II. TREATMENT	TOTALS (as of 8/1/19)
Number currently in treatment	27
Number completed 12 month protocol	13
Seroconverted to negative at 6 months	15
Seroconverted to negative at 12 months	12 (92.3%)



Together let's end heartworm disease.

We hope Veterinarians will continue to look for ways to help low-income clients. We encourage rescues and shelters to use the free tools we present to copy our clinics and to seek our help. The Inner Pup is focusing efforts at reaching deeper into target neighborhoods, to let these dog owners know we are here for them. Our clinics require funding to be sustainable. We depend on those who are aware of the work we do and support us with contributions, in-kind donations, and grants.

The Inner Pup Mission

To elevate empathy, compassion, and responsible pet ownership in high-need communities by providing humane education and affordable resources to people and pets.



TIP
The Inner Pup

For more information contact one of our Clinic Co-directors:

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Thank you to our staff, vets, volunteers, and our Board for making TIP's mission their own. Thanks to our donors who are with us every step of the way and our designer, Bertman Design Studio and photographers, Jeanette and Roni for bringing our program to life in this project. And a very special thank you to Dr. Sheldon Rubin.