



# Technical Bulletin

## Heartworm Statistics Update

The following information indicates the method of testing, the results, and the history of travel from all animals tested at Phoenix Central Laboratory from 1998 through March 2009.

### NUMBER OF DOGS AND CATS TESTED FOR DIROFILARIASIS

Year	Positive Adult Antigen (Ag)	Negative Adult Antigen (Ag)	Positive Microfilaria	Negative Microfilaria	Positive Feline Antibody	Negative Feline Antibody
1998	39	2,129	10	420	N/A	N/A
1999	44	2,080	10	547	N/A	N/A
2000	53	2,257	24	611	N/A	N/A
2001	39	2,445	17	671	N/A	N/A
2002	32	2,345	17	627	N/A	N/A
2003	12	1,207	6	316	N/A	N/A
2004	39	2,727	19	213	N/A	N/A
2005	50	2,961	20	903	N/A	N/A
2006	145	3,784	40	1,086	N/A	N/A
2007	36	2,387	16	657	3	116
2008	42	3,171	17	806	3	176
2009 Jan—March	18	700	15	199	1	18

Note:

- In the fourth quarter 2005, Hurricane Katrina rescue animals began arriving in Washington State.
- 2006: One native WA case; 5% had known history of travel; remainder Katrina rescue.
- 2007: 3 native WA cases; 67% had known history of relocation from Gulf Coast.
- 2008: 50% with known travel history from Gulf States; 14% native with travel out of state; 26% born in or relocated from other states (California, Indiana, Hawaii, Taiwan, Illinois, South America, Tennessee, Arkansas, Minnesota); 10% unknown travel history.
- 2009: Travel history not yet determined.

Heartworm Test Performance Characteristics:

The feline heartworm antibody test used by Phoenix Lab is reported to have 96% sensitivity and 98% specificity to *D. immitis*.

The canine heartworm antigen test sensitivity is dependent on worm load and sex of worm; 85% with one female adult worm, 95% with two, and nearly 100% with 3 or more female adult heartworms present. Specificity is reported to be 100%.