



NEW DRUG-RESISTANT STRAIN OF HEARTWORM FIRST DISCOVERED IN METAIRIE

Metairie-2014 prompts the urgency of heartworm prevention and mosquito deterrent for pets.

Metairie, LA, [Date]– "Maddie" Roberts, a yellow lab, was a patient of Cynthia Benbow, DVM, CVA, that contracted heartworms while on monthly heartworm prevention. Dr. Benbow suspected Maddie had become infected with a drug-resistant strain of heartworms. Following the appropriate testing it was soon discovered that in fact a drug-resistant strain of heartworms infected a pet in Metairie – the first in the U.S. to be infected by this new strain.

To confirm whether the heartworms Maddie contracted really were drug-resistant, a sample of her blood was taken and sent to Ray Kaplan, DVM, at the Department of Infectious Diseases at University of Georgia (UGA) College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Kaplan's lab confirmed that the heartworms were indeed drug-resistant and established the strain for research purposes; naming it "Metairie-2014."

"It is crucial for pet owners to understand the importance of being on consistent, monthly heartworm prevention and a mosquito repellent" says Dr. Benbow. "Since this resistant strain was found in Metairie, the double-protection approach is the best way for owners to protect their pets from now on, no matter what time of the year."

Thanks to Dr. Benbow and Maddie's owner's, this new drug-resistant strain of heartworms was discovered, and is helping researchers at UGA better understand and help solve the problem of drug-resistance in heartworms. These researchers just published their first paper using the Metairie-2014 strain in the journal Parasites and Vectors.

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Both Dr. Benbow and Dr. Kaplan cannot stress enough to owners how crucial it is to have their pets on both heartworm prevention and a mosquito deterrent, since mosquitoes spread the disease from pet to pet.

About Benbow Veterinary Services: For almost 15 years, Benbow Veterinary Services (BVS) has been providing compassionate, quality care for pets throughout the Metairie and greater New Orleans areas. With their education and experience in both Western and Eastern medical treatments, the staff holds themselves to the highest standards of care through medical innovation, continued education, and advancements in animal healthcare. BVS works to strengthen communication with their clients, and set a precedence of treating them and their pets responsibly, respectfully, and individually in a family environment, all while inspiring a culture of trust and compassion. Through their community involvement and support, the doctors and staff at BVS promote and nurture the joy of the pet-human bond. For more information, please visit www.benbowvetservices.com.

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