

Healing Heartworm Program

A Main Line Animal Rescue & Bissell Pet Foundation Partnership



Main Line Animal Rescue (MLAR) is proud to announce a new initiative with Bissell Pet Foundation which aims to save 100 Heartworm positive dogs this year. We need your help to save these dogs

With a \$30,000 Matching Grant from Bissell Pet Foundation and additional support from you, our community of animal advocates, we are committed to saving the lives of these dogs who have nowhere else to turn.

Most heartworm positive dogs across the US do not qualify for transport programs and face the possibility of euthanasia in their source shelter. Through coordinated efforts, MLAR will transport these dogs to our farm where they will receive daily care, Heartworm treatment, and a second chance at a new life.

In addition to the direct care provided to these dogs, MLAR will be initiating a campaign to raise the community's awareness and understanding of this very preventable and treatable disease. *It is important to note that Heartworm treatment is not only safe for our animal patients, but housing heartworm positive dogs poses no health risk to other animals in our community.*

Understanding Heartworm

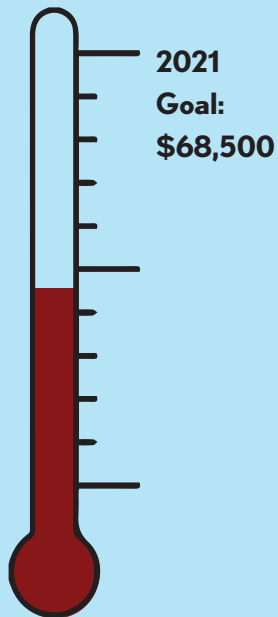
Heartworm disease is serious disease and can result in severe lung disease, heart failure, other organ damage, and death in pets, mainly dogs, cats, and ferrets. It is caused by a parasitic worm, spread through the bite of a mosquito. The dog becomes a host for the worms, meaning that the worms mature into adults, mate, and produce offspring while living inside of a dog. The worms are called "heartworms" because the adults live in the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels of an infected animal.

Heartworm disease is not contagious – a dog cannot catch the disease from being near an infected dog. Heartworm disease is only spread through the bite of a mosquito. In the United States, heartworm disease is most common along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, but it has been reported in dogs in all 50 states.

Fortunately, in our area, Heartworm prevention is common practice for dogs. Dog owners routinely give their dogs treatments that prevent infection and keep them healthy. *This keeps the incidence rate of infection very low in our area – which is a good thing!*



Moolan (left) and Shankley (right) two heartworm program transport dogs.



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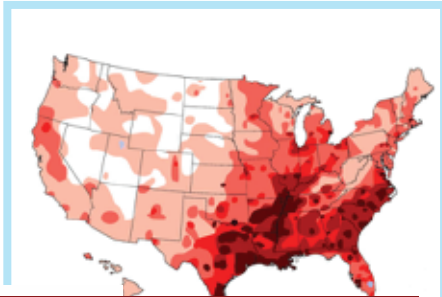
mlar.org/heartworm

Over the past 10 years, highly successful shelter transport programs have been developed all over the country. The goal of these programs is to help get adoptable dogs out of overcrowded shelters located in the south, where they face possible euthanasia and into northern and mid-Atlantic shelters where they have a better chance of finding a new home. Though these transport programs are helping save tens of thousands of southern dogs every year, highly adoptable Heartworm-positive dogs are often left behind.

With your help, MLAR will initiate a model program to begin saving these innocent adoptable dogs. Help us heal their hearts and begin their new lives.

The Program

Through our network of partnerships, MLAR staff and volunteers will save 100 dogs diagnosed with Heartworm who otherwise do not have access to care. Our program, in accordance with guidelines set by the American Heartworm Society (AHS) and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV), will work as follows:



Incidence of Heartworm

Southern states are still struggling with high incidence rates of Heartworm in dogs and cats. There are many contributing factors, but our goal is to help these animals get the care they need and find the homes they deserve. While we work to find these animals homes, groups like Bissell Pet Foundation are working tirelessly in these southern states to reduce the rate of transmission through increased access to care, humane education, and community outreach.*

** 2019 data reflected*

1. The source shelter will help identify Heartworm-positive dogs with good temperaments and no other known medical conditions who will be able to successfully handle the transport to MLAR.
2. Dogs will receive their first Heartworm treatments at the source shelter. This is beneficial as it **starts the treatment of the disease before transportation and prevents the transmission of the heartworm to other animals.**
3. Transports will be coordinated between the two locations through a combination of fee-based services and volunteers.
4. When the animals arrive at MLAR, they will be examined by the veterinarian and then **placed into a 2 week quarantine just in case they have any other contagious diseases.** Once the dogs are given a good bill of health (aside from their heartworm, of course), they will move into a foster home for the duration of their 4-month treatment cycle or into our main kennels until a foster home can be secured.
5. While undergoing treatment, it is essential for the dogs to remain calm with the least amount of stress possible. Ideally, we will identify possible adopters who will take these dogs home to foster through their medical treatments with the eventual goal of adopting them. Recovering in a quiet home environment is the best situation for these dogs. For those dogs who remain with us at our property for the entirety of their treatments, we will work to find them a compatible home as quickly as possible after treatment has concluded. **These dogs have been through quite a journey, but that does not end until they are with their new loving family.**

Financial Need and Budget

A Heartworm treatment program requires a great deal of resources, and this is where community support is so vital.

The generous matching grant from the Bissell Pet Foundation will match every donation to our program dollar for dollar up to \$30,000. That means that every dollar you donate will have TWICE the lifesaving impact.

Through the combination of your support, the Bissell grant, and volunteer time, we will be able to save the lives of 100 dogs facing euthanasia due to their Heartworm positive status.

Please help us reach our goal by donating to this pressing need.

Description	MLAR Cost Per Dog	Extended MLAR Cost for 100 dogs
Transportation animals will need to be transported from source shelter to MLAR on a monthly basis throughout the year	\$75	\$7,500
Medical Treatment: protocol of radiographs, Knots Test, doxycycline, immiticide, prednisone and heartworm preventive	\$285	\$28,500
Spay/Neuter Procedure: all dogs prior to adoption will be spayed/neutered and microchipped	\$115	\$11,500
Daily Care: while the dogs are living at the shelter, they will receive daily food, walks, enrichment and live in clean and comfortable housing	\$15/day for 2 weeks	\$21,000
Total Expenses for Program		\$68,500
Bissell Pet Foundation Matching Grant		\$30,000
Fundraising Need		\$38,500



Chico, a super sweet, 1-year-old Pit bull mix, came to MLAR through our Heartworm Program in March of 2021. After his initial treatment, he headed into the home of a dedicated foster family who soon fell in love with Chico. When his treatment was complete, his family made it official and adopted Chico. Congratulations, Chico! Happy Tails!



Buckley's Journey

In June of 2021, a new transport of Healing Heartworm Program dogs arrived at MLAR from Mobile, Alabama.

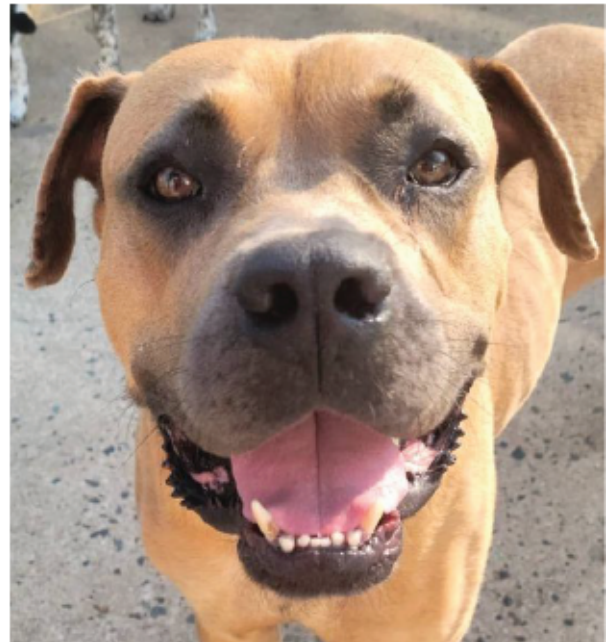
Buckley, a 90-pound 5-year-old mastiff, was one of these lucky dogs.

During his two week quarantine, Buckley was sweet and timid. He began his lifesaving Heartworm treatment and received daily walks and love from MLAR's dedicated staff (like Bea, pictured here) and volunteers.

His living space was kept clean and comfortable, and he was safe and cared for in our kennels. When it was time for Buckley to find a foster, he was taken home by one of our Veterinary Nurses, who had fallen in love with him in those two short weeks.

Living with his foster family has been an adjustment (he gets very sad when they leave!), but is truly lifechanging for Buckley. He is learning how to live with children and other dogs, and by the time his 4 month treatment is over, we are sure that he will find his perfect forever home.

Buckley waited 5 years and travelled over 1,100 miles to find his new life. He would not have had this chance without MLAR's Healing Heartworm Program and individual donors just like you.



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For more information and to make a lifesaving donation today, visit mlar.org/heartworm or contact Spencer Masloff at smasloff@pspca.org.