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**FOSTER TO ADOPT PROGRAM and Heartworm Treatment Informational Sheet**

* Dogs Heartworm (HW) positive go into our FTA (foster to adopt) program and may leave if they are spayed/neutered, have started on a 30-day doxycycline protocol and have clearance to go home.
* We highly recommend you take your dog to your own vet for a well check to establish care (this is at your own expense, since the dog will be yours). Your vet may recommend additional testing or medications which will be at your cost. Treatment with a private vet offers additional care, flexibility, and options to you as the adopter and helps form that baseline care while you await treatment.
* As the Adopter, you have two options for a HW positive dog.
  + Option 1: We complete the injection only Heartworm Treatments at Saving Grace.
  + Option 2: You partner with your vet and take on the treatments at your cost. We encourage you to contact your vet to compare treatment options. If you choose option 2, we complete final adoption now and you do not need to return to Saving Grace for treatments with your dog.
* Our Process:
  + 30-day Doxycycline protocol- antibiotic treatment plan that clears inflammation and bacteria in the cardiovascular system before the 1st treatment. This protocol starts as soon as the dog tests positive for HW.
  + Dogs are added to the rotation schedule for HW treatment.
  + HW team reaches out and schedules treatments via email.
  + 1st injection is scheduled about a week after Doxycycline finishes.
  + 2nd injection is scheduled 4-6 weeks after 1st.
  + 3rd injection, 24 hours after the 2nd.
  + Final adoption takes place the night of 3rd treatment.
* Adopters go home with:
  + Signed Foster to Adopt agreement, signed HW options form, HW information sheet and consent form (we need a copy of license and adoption request on file)
  + From the adoption packet: our behavior acclimation sheet, recommendations form, 24-hour physical signs sheet
  + A copy of the medical information sheet
  + A copy of the rabies certificate
  + Current medications the dog is on (if applicable)
* Injections: 3 total
  + Heartworm Treatments are administered in the Saving Grace clinic to large groups on designated dates, therefore, there is no wiggle room as far as date and times. You must commit to the timeline once treatment begins.
  + Drop off is typically around 2pm and pick-up between 4pm and 6pm.
* Post treatment care instructions, an updated medical information sheet, and medications (if applicable) are sent after each treatment.