

## Pharmacy Spotlight: Interceptor®

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



- Medication type:  
Prescription-only, heartworm and intestinal wormer

- Active ingredient:  
Milbemycin Oxime

- Dosage form:  
Beef-flavored tablets

- Manufacturer:  
Novartis

- Major use:  
For the prevention of heartworm infections, control of hookworms, removal and control of roundworms and whipworms in dogs; prevention of heartworm, and removal of hookworms and roundworms in cats.

- How it works:  
In dogs, Milbemycin Oxime interferes with the invertebrate neurotransmission (nerves of the worms) causing death of immature heartworms (



*Dirofilaria immitis*). For pet owners who do not wish to use Ivermectin.

Heartworm, spread by mosquitoes, is a serious health threat for dogs. When a mosquito bites a heartworm-infected dog, the insect takes in larval heartworms (microfilariae) that are circulating in the host's bloodstream. Microfilariae go through several life stages in the mosquito, and in about 14 days they end up in the insect's mouth. When the mosquito lands on another dog to feed, the larval heartworms travel down the hole created by the mosquito during the blood meal. Once the larvae enter the bloodstream they travel to the dog's heart and blood vessels where they grow into adult worms. A severe heartworm infection causes obstruction of the blood vessels of the lungs, enlargement of the heart,





congestive heart failure, and death.

Milbemycin Oxime also controls the most common intestinal worms of dogs and cats. In dogs, this medication controls the adult hookworm *Ancylostoma caninum* and removes and controls adult roundworms *Toxocara canis* and *Toxascaris leonina* and whipworms *Trichuris vulpis*; in cats it removes hookworm *Ancylostoma tubaeforme* and roundworm *Toxocara cati*.

For full details on this medication, [download the free patient information sheet](#).