

## ProHeart 6 Questions and Answers

### Why was ProHeart 6 voluntarily recalled?

- ProHeart 6 was recalled at the request of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM). We felt it was in the best interest of veterinarians and pet owners to thoroughly address the questions and concerns of the CVM before continuing the marketing of this product. We have always maintained confidence in ProHeart 6 and the unique medical benefits it brings to veterinary medicine.

### Why is Fort Dodge bringing ProHeart 6 back?

- The American Heartworm Society (AHS) estimates as many as 27 million dogs in the United States are at risk for canine heartworm disease because they are not currently on a preventative. The AHS also reports approximately 250,000 pets in the United States tested positive for heartworm infection in 2004 (based on a survey conducted in 2005).
- While many veterinarians recommend year-round protection, results of the AHS survey show the average dog receives only 5.4 doses of monthly preventative per year – putting a staggering number of dogs at risk for heartworm disease. Of pet owners who give a monthly preventative, one in three states they have missed giving the dose on several occasions. Of those who reported missing a heartworm dose, 20 percent stopped giving a preventative altogether.
- Clearly, veterinarians recognize lack of compliance with heartworm preventatives as a serious threat to the health and well being of pets. Fort Dodge is pleased to be able to provide veterinarians and pet owners with ProHeart 6 – the only option for heartworm prevention in the United States that helps ensure dogs are continuously protected against heartworm disease for six months following a single dose. It is the only heartworm preventative designed to be administered exclusively by the veterinarian for professional control of a pet's health.
- For seven years, the Company has provided the ProHeart family of sustained-release products in a number of other countries, where it has protected millions of dogs against this potential deadly disease.
- The many requests we have had for the product by veterinarians since the voluntary recall shows it to be a valuable tool in the protection of dogs against heartworm infections.

### Is ProHeart 6 safe?

- Yes. Fort Dodge has worked with the CVM to address its questions. We are confident in the product and its return to veterinarians, and the CVM concurs with our reintroduction of ProHeart 6 in the United States.
- There is an extensive body of scientific data to support the safety of ProHeart 6, including studies conducted at world-renowned universities and other research establishments, review of data by independent veterinary experts and our international experience with the product. The ProHeart family of products is marketed in major countries (Australia, the Mediterranean regions of Europe and Japan) where heartworm infection is endemic and a serious health risk for dogs. ProHeart products have achieved substantial usage in all of these countries, and are the market leader in both Australia and Italy.
- Each of these countries has a mandatory adverse event reporting system. In each country, the incidence rate for adverse events is deemed "Very Rare" using the World Health Organization (WHO) categories for adverse event reports. Of those events, the majority are allergic in nature, which is consistent with the pattern recognized with many pharmaceuticals.
- Because the product is being returned to the U.S. veterinary market following a voluntary recall, Fort Dodge will implement a post-marketing surveillance initiative based on programs used for human drugs. This program will include comprehensive veterinarian training, pet owner education and consent forms, and specific requirements for the purchase and administration of ProHeart 6.

## **Where does a veterinarian get more information about the specific requirements of purchasing and administering ProHeart 6?**

- Veterinarians who wish to purchase ProHeart 6 will be required to participate in a training program and register with Fort Dodge Animal Health. To complete the training and register, veterinarians should go to [www.vetsymposium.com/proheart6](http://www.vetsymposium.com/proheart6) and follow the directions provided on the site. Training and registration must be completed before product will be shipped to a practitioner. For additional information, veterinarians are encouraged to call their Fort Dodge sales representative or call the Company's Professional Services department at 1-800-533-8536.

## **How do you respond to the adverse events that have been reported?**

- Fort Dodge Animal Health is committed to the safety and efficacy of its products. As a responsible animal health care company and in compliance with federal regulations and established industry protocol, we take any adverse event report very seriously and investigate each case thoroughly.
- It is important to understand Fort Dodge Animal Health reports all adverse events to the CVM unfiltered (meaning all reported potential events are submitted without regard to validity, and cases subsequently determined not to be related to the product are still included in the overall reporting numbers).
- The ProHeart family of products is marketed in major countries (Australia, the Mediterranean regions of Europe and Japan) where heartworm disease is endemic and a serious health risk for dogs. ProHeart has achieved substantial usage in all of these countries, and is the market leader in both Australia and Italy. Each of these countries has a mandatory adverse event reporting system. In each country, the incidence rate for adverse events for ProHeart products is deemed "Very Rare" using World Health Organization (WHO) categories for adverse event reports. Of those events, the majority are allergic in nature, which is consistent with the pattern seen with many pharmaceuticals.

## **Can you say that ProHeart 6 did not result in any adverse events?**

- While we can never rule out an isolated and individual reaction that can occur in an individual dog, investigations have not found any systemic pattern of disease linked to ProHeart 6. We take every report of a dog death seriously and investigate each case thoroughly, whether or not it appears the product in question is involved. We're pet lovers and owners ourselves. For more than 95 years, Fort Dodge has been dedicated to bringing innovative products to veterinary medicine to protect the health and well being of animals.
- While pharmaceuticals and vaccines are designed to protect a pet from disease, they may also result in an unexpected adverse event. To minimize the risks that exist with any product, it is important to understand the benefits and risks associated with a given product before it is administered. Specific to ProHeart 6, we rely upon veterinarians to evaluate individual pets to determine whether or not the product is the most appropriate heartworm preventative based on a pet's medical status, lifestyle and other health factors. Our primary objective is to protect a pet's health and well being.

## **Has the product label changed since ProHeart 6 was voluntarily recalled?**

- Yes. The current label for ProHeart 6 reflects our discussions with the CVM. For example, there is a new statement that ProHeart 6 should not be administered within 30 days of vaccination. This change will help ensure we accurately assess the performance of ProHeart 6 without other confounding factors, such as vaccines, which are known to sometimes cause reactions. Fort Dodge will also continue to emphasize the product should not be given to pets that are sick, debilitated, underweight or have a history of weight loss. Also, given the data that were generated from an extensive epidemiological study, Fort Dodge will ask veterinarians to use this product with caution in dogs with pre-existing allergic disease, as these dogs may be at greater risk for experiencing an allergic reaction to other products, including ProHeart 6.
- It is very common for a product label to be updated as new information is gathered following its introduction to and utilization by a wide population base. Prior to the voluntary recall, the ProHeart 6 label was updated in 2002 and 2003 to reflect new label indications, including the treatment of existing larval and adult stages of hookworm, and product performance and field experience.
- It is standard practice by human and veterinary pharmaceutical companies to communicate with doctors about the performance of their products post approval and as additional information becomes available, including changes to the label. As a responsible animal health care company, we work diligently to ensure veterinarians have accurate, up-to-date information about all of our products.

### **Has the product changed since the voluntary recall?**

- ProHeart 6 has not changed since the voluntary recall, other than a change in the supplier of one of the components of the diluent.

### **Was ProHeart 6 ever voluntarily recalled in other countries? Why or why not?**

- No. ProHeart was not recalled in any country outside of the United States. Regulatory authorities in each of these countries reviewed the clinical research and reporting in their respective countries, as well as the data from the United States, and decided no recall was necessary.

### **According to the label, are there any dogs that should not receive ProHeart 6?**

- A veterinarian with an established doctor-client-patient relationship is always the best source of information with regard to the most appropriate products and treatment for a pet. Pet owners should speak with their veterinarian regarding the use of ProHeart 6 and should make him/her fully aware of the dog's medical history.
- The label for ProHeart 6 states the following: Do not administer ProHeart 6 to dogs that are younger than 6 months old, sick, debilitated, underweight or that have a history of weight loss. ProHeart 6 should be administered with caution in dogs with pre-existing allergic disease, including food allergy, atopy and flea allergy dermatitis. Do not administer ProHeart 6 within one month of vaccination. Caution should be used when administering ProHeart 6 to heartworm positive dogs.

### **Did you conduct any new safety or efficacy studies after the product was recalled? If so, what were they?**

- Extensive scientific evaluations were conducted during the period the product was in a voluntary recall status. This science-based evidence contributed to the decision to return ProHeart 6 to the U.S. veterinary market. No new efficacy studies were conducted as the product continues to demonstrate proven performance under real-world conditions.

### **Why did you consult independent experts about ProHeart 6?**

- We consulted with third-party veterinary experts to review and analyze product data, conduct further evaluations and advise us about the best action to take regarding ProHeart 6. We consulted academicians from prestigious universities, such as Cornell University, Auburn University, University of Georgia, Purdue and University of Pennsylvania. We also worked with practicing veterinarians who have extensive experience with canine heartworm disease. We value independent scientific evaluations of the product, and are pleased it is returning to the U.S. market as a result.

### **Who were the independent experts you consulted most recently?**

- Lawrence Glickman, VMD, DrPH, FACE
- Alan Rebar, DVM, Ph.D., a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists with a specialty in clinical pathology
- Alexander de Lahunta, DVM, Ph.D., diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (neurology specialty) and honorary member of the American College of Pathologists
- Philip Bergman, DVM, MS, Ph.D., diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, Oncology
- Keith Harris, DVM, Vice President, Bioresources, Wyeth Research, diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists
- Ian Tizard, B.V.M.S., B.Sc., Ph.D., Richard M. Schubot Professor, Veterinary Pathobiology, diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (Immunology)

### **How does ProHeart 6 compare to other heartworm preventatives?**

- ProHeart 6 is the only sustained release injectable for the prevention of heartworm infection. It is the only product in the United States providing six months of continuous protection following a single dose, and puts heartworm prevention solely in the hands of veterinarians, which avoids the problems with lack of compliance and protects against heartworm infection.
- Heartworm is a life-threatening canine parasite transmitted by mosquitoes that affects dogs in many parts of the world. Research shows most dog owners understand the importance of protecting their

pets from this deadly disease, yet have problems adhering to a proper administration schedule. Missed doses compromise the ability of the products to control heartworms.

### **Is it true that Fort Dodge previously changed the label for ProHeart 6?**

- Yes. It is very common for a product label to be updated as new information is gathered following its introduction to and utilization by a wide population base. Prior to the voluntary recall, the ProHeart 6 label was updated in 2002 and 2003 to reflect new label indications, including the treatment of existing larval and adult stages of hookworm, and product performance and field experience.
- It is standard practice by human and veterinary pharmaceutical companies to communicate with doctors about the performance of their products post approval and as additional information becomes available, including changes to the label. As a responsible animal health care company, we work diligently to ensure veterinarians have accurate, up-to-date information about all of our products.

### **What information should veterinarians communicate to pet owners before administering ProHeart 6?**

- Based on the new monitoring program, veterinarians will be required to provide pet owners with a Client Information Sheet that provides easy-to-understand information on ProHeart 6. Pet owners must read the information and veterinarians must answer all questions before the product can be administered. The pet owner must also sign an "Informed Consent" form, which should be placed in the pet's health record. All of these materials will be available to veterinarians and pet owners via [proheart6dvm.com](http://proheart6dvm.com).

### **I've heard the term RiskMAP. What does this mean?**

- A RiskMAP is a post-marketing activity that, until now, has only been used in the monitoring of human health products following their introduction to the medical community. Fort Dodge has voluntarily developed and implemented the first animal health risk minimization plan to support the reintroduction of ProHeart 6. The program will allow us to maintain active communication with veterinarians.

*ProHeart® 6 is generally well tolerated. Do not use in sick, debilitated or underweight animals, animals with a history of weight loss, or within one month of vaccination. Use with caution in dogs with pre-existing allergic disease. A small percentage of dogs showed mild, transient swelling or itching at the injection site. While rare, allergic, digestive, hematological, or neurological reactions may occur. In addition, death has been reported. ProHeart 6 is available only through a restricted distribution program. Only veterinarians enrolled in this program can receive and administer ProHeart 6. In addition, ProHeart 6 must only be administered to clients whose owners have been advised of the risks of ProHeart 6 and sign an Owner Consent Form. To obtain additional information including a copy of the product labeling, visit the website at [www.proheart6dvm.com](http://www.proheart6dvm.com) or call 1-800-533-8536.*