

# ARE ONLINE PHARMACIES THAT GREAT A DEAL?



We've all see the commercials from 1-800-PetMeds touting the incredible deals you can get from purchasing your Heartgard and Frontline online. And PetMeds loves to talk about the incredible hassle of having to drag your poor dog to the veterinarian's office.

But what 1-800-PetMeds isn't telling you is:

- A) You still have to have a valid client-veterinarian-patient relationship
- B) Our heartworm season runs seven months, so your dog will be exposed for a month
- C) It's not even cheaper!

For starters, check out the price comparison chart below, comparing six doses of Heartgard from two leading online pharmacies to what we charge at GAVC. Note that the prices from the online pharmacies include free shipping (after reaching a minimum order amount), plus a \$3.50 prescription writing fee charged by our clinic for record-keeping. These amounts don't even include tax!

In comparison, the price for the same six doses from GAVC is less for every size dog. The prices on the chart include tax at GAVC, and the second price on the chart includes a 5% discount for loyalty... if you bought Heartgard from our clinic in the prior season, you automatically get a 5% discount on this year's purchase.

Even then, you have to consider state law requirements on prescription medications. In order for our clinic to sign a prescription form for a patient, we have to have seen the patient sometime in the previous 12 months. In the case of dispensing heartworm medication, we also are required to either have a heartworm test on file for the current year or a signed waiver form declining the test. So even though PetMeds points out what a "pain" it is to bring your dog to the office, well, unfortunately, you still have to bring your dog to the office, even if you are not buying your preventative from us.

Finally, heartworm season in the Twin Ports runs from the beginning of May through the end of October, a period of 7 months. Online pharmacies will only dispense heartworm in the 6-dose boxes, but this leaves your dog unprotected for one month. And because of legal issues, we can only sign a prescription for the number of doses left in that year's heartworm season; we cannot OK "extra" doses.

So before you give your money to an out-of-state warehouse, we hope you'll consider the better deal you get with us!

	6 doses Heartgard < 25 lbs.	6 doses Heartgard 25-50 lbs.	6 doses Heartgard 50-100 lbs.
<b>1-800-PetMeds</b>	\$35.50	\$43.50	\$45.50
<b>Foster &amp; Smith</b>	\$33.50	\$41.50	\$48.25
<b>GAVC</b>	\$26.44/\$25.12	\$35.15/\$33.40	\$42.90/\$40.76

