

# **Butte County officials say pets at risk of heartworm disease**

Chico ER Staff Reports

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OROVILLE — Now that spring has arrived, dogs and cats are at increased risk of heartworm disease, according to the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Heartworm is spread to pets by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquito that transmits the disease is known as the treehole mosquito.

This kind of mosquito is common in the foothills of Northern California. Pet owners can obtain from their veterinarians medicines that protect animals against heartworm. Local residents can help to protect themselves and their pets from treehole mosquitoes by filling treeholes with sand or an absorbent polymer and eliminating standing water on their property.

Standing water can be in anything from containers around the yard, clogged rain gutters, unmaintained spas and swimming pools, birdbaths, ponds, boat covers, tires and wheelbarrows.

For more information, visit the district's Web site at [www.bcmvcd.com](http://www.bcmvcd.com).