

# CHAGAS TESTING

## Why It's Important to Test & How to Get Started

### Prevalence

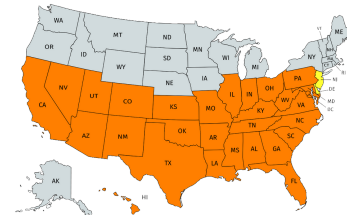
2019 was the first year where cases of Chagas disease *surpassed* Heartworm in Texas.

Researchers found that 18% of shelter dogs tested positive for Chagas in Texas. (J Vet Intern Med 2019;33(1):158-166)

An estimated 7 million dogs in the U.S. are infected with Chagas disease.

### Who should test?

Kissing bugs are the vectors of Chagas disease and can be found in all of the orange states below. If a dog is from, or has spent any time in one of the orange states below, they should be tested.



### Don't wait until it's too late

Many dogs show no symptoms until sudden death.

Younger dogs are more likely to develop severe acute heart disease, causing sudden death, while older dogs are more likely to develop chronic heart disease that slowly degrades the integrity of the heart.

### What labs test for Chagas?

There are only two laboratories that we know of that can test for Chagas disease: Texas Veterinary Medical & Diagnostic Lab & Auburn University.

If you send a blood sample to your normal lab (like IDEXX), the sample will get rerouted to TVMDL & you'll be charged additional fees.

### How To Send A Test

- Set up an account with TVMDL or Auburn prior to scheduling patient for blood draw.
- Collect 1ml serum from clotted blood in a non-additive plastic or glass tube. excessively hemolyzed samples are not acceptable for this test
- Ship overnight w/ cold pack
- Visit TVMDL website for additional instructions if sending more than 1 sample

### Additional Resources:

TVMDL website for sending a test:

More info about Chagas disease:

