



Heartworm Freeze Tag

Needed Items-

- Mosquito antenna/glasses
- White vet coat
- Heart necklaces
- Tarp (or use the circle on a gym floor)
- Cones for boundaries (or lines in a gym)

Once you have talked about the importance of vaccines and heartworm prevention, play this game to show their importance.

In a group of kids, designate one as the mosquito and give them the mosquito costume. Designate a second kid as the veterinarian and the white coat to wear. Give the veterinarian a few heart necklaces which represents heartworm vaccines and allow them to choose who gets them (give 1 necklace for every 10 kids playing). Designate a tarp or circle in the middle of a gym as the vet's clinic.

Explain that the mosquito will buzz around and tag the other kids, just like in the game of freeze tag. Once they are tagged, they must freeze as they have been infected with heartworms. Those with heartworm necklaces are vaccinated and cannot be frozen.

The vet can help the infected pets by tagging them and then leading them to the vet clinic where they must sit. The infected pets treatments will not be done before the game is complete as it does take a long time to treat heartworms and not all pets will survive. Also tell them how expensive treatment is vs prevention.

After the first round, allow them to see how many were infected with heartworms. Now explain that disasters with water create mosquito breeding grounds and add someone as a second mosquito. Then explain that due to the flooding, the playing space is smaller and designate new boundary lines. After this second round, have them see how many more were infected with heartworms and how it was more easily spread.

More resources are available at www.lsart.org



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