

Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease (MMVD)

- Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease (MMVD) is the most common cause of a heart murmur in dogs. MMVD is a slowly progressing condition that eventually leads to congestive heart failure (CHF).
- It thickens the cusps of the mitral valve on the left side of the heart, which is supposed to ensure that blood flows in the proper direction. Thickened valves fail to form a complete seal, which allows blood to leak back into the atrium, causing less blood flow to the body and a heart that has to work harder to maintain blood circulation through the body.
- MMVD tends to affect older dogs and small to medium-sized breeds.
- Symptoms of CHF can include reduced tolerance for exercise, coughing, restlessness at night, and difficulty breathing. The detection of a heart murmur during routine checkups usually precedes a diagnosis of MMVD.
- In the early stages, MMVD is most likely to be subclinical, meaning no symptoms are seen. This phase can last for months or years. However, as the heart deteriorates, CHF will develop. If not diagnosed and treated properly, CHF can cause rapid deterioration in health that ultimately results in death.
- X-rays are very important, as they can detect heart enlargement in pets even prior to the onset of clinical signs. Starting medication (pimobendan) at the first sign of heart enlargement has been proven to delay the onset of CHF, improving quality of life and longevity.

MEDICATION PRESCRIBED TODAY:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

SLEEPING RESPIRATORY RATE MONITORING

Sleeping respiratory rate (SRR) monitoring is very important to help detect early signs of CHF. This is achieved by counting the number of breaths the pet takes over one minute.

How to monitor:

1. One breath = one full intake and exhalation of air.
2. Watch for the animals' chest to rise once and fall once to count one breath.
3. When measuring, your pet should be asleep in a cool place and not dreaming.
4. Do not touch or otherwise disturb your pet while counting.
5. If SRR is consistently over 30 breaths per minute, contact the clinic.

DATE	SRR	DATE	SRR	DATE	SRR	DATE	SRR

PROGRESS EXAMINATION REQUIRED: Date: _____ Time: _____



COOMERA

☎ 07 5502 3333
📍 5/2 Sierra Place
Upper Coomera QLD 4209

CURRUMBIN

☎ 07 5598 4000
📍 7/34 Currumbin Creek Rd
Currumbin QLD 4223

ORMEAU

☎ 07 5549 2120
📍 178 Pascoe Road
Ormeau QLD 4208