



Marketing Portfolio COLLATERAL

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CHARITIES



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*Please note the balloon sculptor and face painter will begin cleaning up at 2:45pm to leave by 3:00pm.



Veterinarian for a Day Certificate

Pediatric Picnic Bag

Pediatric Picnic Map



When Pets Need a Board-Certified Cardiologist

Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist, before heart disease becomes symptomatic or life threatening, are key to your pet living a longer, healthier life.

EXCELLENCE • COMPASSION • INTEGRITY

- We see over 24,000 patients per year
- Since 1987, largest practice of board-certified veterinary cardiologists
- Collaboration with primary care veterinarians for optimal outcome and care
- 24/7 availability by phone for emergency and primary care veterinarians
- Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
- Payment options available

A full cardiac initial consultation includes:

- Complete review of medical records, history, labs, and radiographs
- Blood pressure
- Echocardiogram by board-certified cardiologist
- Owners accompany their pet for echocardiogram
- Accurate and immediate diagnosis
- Ample time with each family for a comprehensive discussion on all aspects of the cardiac patient



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CVCA Locations in Kentucky, Maryland, Texas and Virginia



Why CVCA

Both dogs and cats hide outward signs of heart disease and typically do not appear sick until they are in a crisis situation. **Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist, before heart disease becomes symptomatic or life threatening,** are key to your pet living a longer, healthier life.

EXCELLENCE • COMPASSION • INTEGRITY

- Since 1987, largest practice of board certified veterinary cardiologists
- We see over 21,000 patients per year
- Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
- Partnership and collaboration with primary care veterinarians for optimal outcome and care
- 24/7 availability by phone for your emergency and primary care veterinarians
- The majority of cardiac diseases are treated with generic medications
- Patients with congestive heart failure live 75% longer when co-managed by a board certified veterinary cardiologist and primary care veterinarian.

A full initial cardiac consultation includes:

- Complete review of medical records, history, lab work, and radiographs
- Echocardiogram, performed by board certified cardiologist
- Owners accompany their pet for echocardiogram
- Blood pressure
- Accurate and immediate diagnosis
- Unlimited time for one-on-one discussion and questions during and after the consultation at no additional cost



CVCA supports our local swim teams!

VIRGINIA - Fairfax | Leesburg | Richmond | Springfield | Vienna
MARYLAND - Annapolis | Columbia | Frederick | Gaithersburg | Rockville | Towson

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CVCA Locations in Kentucky, Maryland, Texas and Virginia



When Pets Need a Board-Certified Cardiologist

Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist, before heart disease becomes symptomatic or life threatening, are key to your pet living a longer, healthier life.

EXCELLENCE • COMPASSION • INTEGRITY

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- Collaboration with primary care veterinarians for optimal outcome and care
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- Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member

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- Complete review of medical records, history, labs, and radiographs
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- Ample time with each family for a comprehensive discussion on all aspects of the cardiac patient



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CVCA Locations in Kentucky, Maryland, Texas and Virginia



Swim Team Ad

Pawject Runaway Ad

Loudoun County Ad

CVCA Giving Back Logo

CVCA Giving Back to Communities Video

CLIENT HANDOUTS



Here's what our clients are saying...

This service is nothing short of amazing. I now know the exact medications and doses my Rosie needs to extend her life and preserve the quality of her life. I watched her echocardiogram, which was seriously cool! Dr. Tim Cain fully explained Rosie's issues, including the way a dog's heart works, what to expect, what to watch for but more importantly, he gave me a lot of hope. It was unknown how far her heart disease had progressed, but now we know, and she can be treated accordingly. Thank you, CVCA!

-Julie H

I highly recommend CVCA. Our vet cardiologist retired (and was well-loved around the city), so we were a bit apprehensive, but we had heard great things about the CVCA practice (shares space with AVES). We absolutely loved Dr. Bordelon. She is personable, takes her time, and is great and gentle with both animals and people. She was as quick and as painless as it could be, and my dog was happy. Glad that she found a home in Austin!

Although I never wish for anyone to have to bring their pet here, it is an incredible facility if an emergency pet situation should arise. It is state-of-the-art care with outstanding, caring hands. They emailed me a report of my pet's scans and diagnosis, which I greatly appreciated. We promptly got my dog back on the road to recovery. Thank you, CVCA!

-Lili G

DHHD

I took my 4-week-old Olde English / English Bulldog puppy in for an evaluation of a heart defect that showed up on X-ray at our primary's office. I have no idea how they were able to get an echo on that tiny, wiggly body, but they did an amazing job! Dr. Rosenthal explained everything that he found as we went, was extremely knowledgeable about her condition, and made me comfortable knowing that my baby girl Jasmine couldn't be in better hands. The staff were very friendly and caring. Wonderful facility!

-Cathy T

Bones

They go above and beyond to make sure your pet is receiving the best care possible. Unfortunately, my dog had heart failure months ago, and I took her to CVCA. I am very confident my dog is alive and doing well thanks to CVCA. They were very transparent about costs and gave me dedicated time and service for my dog, and any questions I may have. They have a dedicated team of staff and veterinarians that are able to provide the best possible treatment for your pet and answer any questions you may have. I highly recommend them, especially after your pet has suffered such an awful disease, such as congestive heart failure.

-Helen V

Rocky

staff at CVCA in Austin, Texas, are always welcoming. It certainly makes for a less stressful experience for my dog, Emma and her little Pooh.

-Sophia G

Here's what our clients are saying...



"Today was our first visit to see Dr. Hickey. Kai was completely relaxed and we felt very welcome, and comfortable at this facility. Dr. Hickey and his staff were amazingly kind, informative, and patient with us. At no time did we feel rushed. The quality of care provided today, along with the great customer service, are not things that are easily found these days. We are so happy with everything! Thank you Dr. Hickey and your staff!"

Candy S

"Dr. Tyrrell and staff, at both the Leesburg and Frederick locations, were excellent. They took great care of my cat Hugh for 10 years. After Hugh died at 17 years of age this past November, I received a heartfelt letter handwritten by Dr. Tyrrell offering his condolences. I love that they care both for the pet and the owner. I HIGHLY recommend CVCA! Thanks for all that you do!"

Nicole C

"Dr. Bell and her staff are amazing people. Each and every one of her staff has a heart as big as an ocean. I am always given their undivided attention and loving concern. On my first visit, I became family. Dr. Bell treats my dog, Holly, as if she were her own. I am so very thankful I do not have to go through Holly's heart disease alone."

M

"I am not only one of the referring veterinarians for this practice, but my cat, Gus, is also a cardio patient. I am always impressed with the dedication and compassion that all the doctors show their clients and patients. My practice is over two hours away and they are always willing to consult over the phone if I need advice. My clients always come back with great reviews as well. You guys are awesome!"

Primary Care Veterinarian

"CVCA gave me an additional three years with my little buddy, Dusty, and I am eternally grateful for that because he was the best cat ever. I treasured every moment of that time, as did Dusty."

Lori H

"I wanted to thank CVCA when we thought our 14-year-old Cashew was seeing his last days. They did some really sweet things that really helped comfort me when I was utterly stressed and distraught at his condition. Luckily because of the right care, Cashew is doing much better now. You all were so good with Cashew and in helping me get the right dosage of meds. We get to love Cashew and spend more time with him, and we couldn't ask for more. It's comforting to know you guys are there and that right next door is 24-hour urgent care. Thank you!!"

Leona

"The staff at CVCA made my pet feel at ease and were professional and courteous. Dr. Bell was so polite and took time to thoroughly explain my pet's disease state. She answered all my questions and provided me with very informative materials. During follow up phone calls, the staff continued to display a genuine concern for my pet's well being. I highly recommend CVCA for your pet's cardiology concerns."

JF

"My nine-year-old Weimaraner was referred to CVCA (Cardiology) by my regular vet. After an echocardiogram, he was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, with probable renal problems developing. I was told he might have 2 - 12 months depending on how the treatment went. He had a follow-up echo six months later, and another checkup visit six months after that. There were many, many phone conversations and medicine tweaks over his last 15 months. Everyone at CVCA was the utmost professional and understanding every time there was an interaction."

Bob

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CVCA Locations in Kentucky, Maryland, Texas and Virginia

Client Testimonials

Client Testimonials - Texas



Meet CVCA's Austin, TX Board-Certified Cardiologists



Katie Meier,
DVM,
Diplomate,
ACVIM
(Cardiology)

Dr. Meier graduated from the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 2003. She then went on to complete a year-long rotating post-graduate internship at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine.

She completed her residency in Cardiology at Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Meier achieved her Diplomate status in 2007 and is a member of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.



Sara Beth Bordelon,
DVM, MS,
Diplomate,
ACVIM
(Cardiology)

Dr. Sara Beth Bordelon obtained her DVM degree from Louisiana State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005. She completed a one-year rotating internship in Los Angeles, CA prior to beginning her Cardiology residency. She completed her Cardiology residency at Washington State University and became a Diplomate in 2010.



Julie Andrie,
DVM,
Diplomate,
ACVIM
(Cardiology)

Dr. Julie Andrie received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts. She completed her clinical year at Oklahoma State University. After graduation, Dr. Andrie completed a one-year rotating internship at Kansas State University. She then joined the CVCA team in 2010.



Meet CVCA's Louisville, KY Board-Certified Cardiologists



Sarah Clay Bell,
DVM, MS,
Diplomate,
ACVIM
(Cardiology)

Dr. Bell graduated from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in 2009, and completed a rotating internship at North Carolina State University the following year. She then moved to Pittsburgh to practice emergency medicine before deciding to pursue a residency in cardiology. Dr. Bell completed her residency at the University of Missouri and achieved Diplomate status with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Cardiology) in 2015.



Steven Rosenthal,
DVM, Diplomate,
ACVIM
(Cardiology)

Dr. Rosenthal joined CVCA in 1994. A graduate of the University of Maryland, he went on to receive his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. He completed both his small animal internship and cardiology residency at the Animal Medical Center in New York, after which he was a staff cardiologist for one year. Dr. Rosenthal is the cardiology consultant for the Smithsonian Institution National Zoo in Washington DC, the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, and the National Aquarium and has been part of numerous cardiac publications in reference to zoo animal cardiac disease.

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Dr. Jesse Miller, newest resident!

Resident in Cardiology

Dr. Miller is excited to welcome Dr. Miller to the Pet E.R. in Towson, MD. Dr. Miller is a great addition to our team and is a partnership with family bringing the highest level of care and service to our patients and their pets.

Dr. Miller has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland with a major in Biology. He completed a one-year rotating internship at the University of Texas at San Antonio, TX. Dr. Miller is currently completing his Cardiology residency at the University of Texas at San Antonio, TX.



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1209 Cromwell Bridge Road • Towson, MD 21286
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Fax: 410-828-5315
Email: cvcatowson@cvcavets.com

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Locations: Fairfax | Leesburg | Richmond | Springfield | Vienna
Columbia | Frederick | Gaithersburg | Rockville | Towson

Meet Cardiologists - Texas

Meet Cardiologists - Kentucky

Meet Newest Resident

☐ Dog ☐ Cat ☐ Other _____

Color _____ DOB/Approximate Age _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Altered? ☐ Y ☐ N

Injured? ☐ Y ☐ N If yes, when? _____ and what procedure _____

We should be advised of? _____

at? _____

City _____

and Pressure:

[illegible]

New Patient Form

At Home Respiratory Monitoring

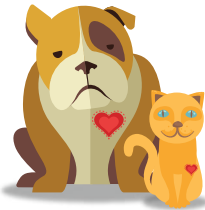
When Your Pet Needs a Cardiologist



Early diagnosis, appropriate treatment with compassionate care, and exceptional value, with payment options, put treatment within reach

Both dogs and cats hide outward signs of heart disease and typically do not appear sick until they are in a crisis. Emergency visits with pets can be very expensive and traumatic for both the patient and family, so the "wait and see" approach is not recommended for dogs or cats with heart disease. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist before heart disease becomes symptomatic or life-threatening are key to your pet living a longer, healthier life with you and your family.

More than 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member. Since 1987, CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets has seen more than 24,000 patients per year—exceeding any other board-certified veterinary cardiology practice.



10 Signs of Heart Disease Dogs and Cats May Show

- 1 Persistent cough
- 2 Difficulty breathing
- 3 Fainting/collapsing
- 4 Abdominal swelling/distension
- 5 Less tolerance to exercise
- 6 Heart murmur
- 7 Change in heart rate
- 8 Change in body weight
- 9 Restless or hiding
- 10 Loss of appetite

Leading-Edge Diagnostics and Treatments

Early Diagnosis and Appropriate Treatment are Key

- ACVIM credentials reflect 3-5+ years of cardiac-specific training for board-certified cardiologists.
- CVCA doctors have extensive training in the proper techniques and interpretation of echocardiograms, and other cardiac diagnostics, resulting in higher accuracy.
- We utilize the top of the line Philips pediatric echocardiography units, which utilizes the latest technology and software for accuracy.
- The majority of cardiac diseases are treated with generic medications.
- Families report an improvement in their pet's quality of life and energy while on medications.
- Patients with congestive heart failure live 75% longer when co-managed by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist and primary care veterinarian.

What to Expect at the Initial Consultation

Initial consultations include a full and accurate cardiac workup by a board-certified cardiologist:

- Complete review and interpretation of medical history, radiographs, and labs
- Blood pressure
- Echocardiogram by a board-certified cardiologist
- Owners accompany their pet for an echocardiogram
- Accurate and immediate diagnosis
- Ample time with each family for a comprehensive discussion, including:
 - > Treatment options and prognosis
 - > Anesthesia risk management
 - > Diet and nutritional supplements
 - > Options for medication
 - > Activity levels
- 24/7 availability by phone for emergency and primary care veterinarians.
- Availability for same-day urgent cases
- Collaboration with primary care veterinarians: CVCA is committed to ensuring ongoing communication with your primary care veterinarian.

Exceptional Value and Payment Options

- 85% of our patients receive a full cardiac workup, including treatment options and prognosis, in the range of the upper-\$600s*.
- Payment options: CareCredit scratchpay VISA DISCOVER

*CVCA 2021 prices subject to change.

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When Your Pet Needs a Cardiologist



The toughest question we ever get from owners is, *‘Could more have been done for my pet?’*

A Tale of Two Dobermans: Same Disease, Different Outcomes

- Two Dobermans; both five years of age.
- Both presented to their primary care veterinarians for wellness care in October 2014.
- A new murmur and arrhythmia were found on both dogs.
- "Brutus", the first Doberman, was counseled by the family veterinarian and referral to CVCA was recommended due to the high level of suspicion for dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM).
- "Sinbad", the second Doberman, was told a mobile sonographer could come by the practice and perform the same echocardiogram as CVCA. The cost would be similar but the owner would not have to travel outside of their neighborhood.
- Both were asymptomatic in October 2014.

Brutus

Brutus and his family came to see CVCA a few days after their wellness visit with their primary care veterinarian. Physical examination revealed a grade III/VI systolic murmur over the mitral valve along with occasional extrasystolic beats that were likely consistent with ventricular premature contrac-

EKG were recommended. A had already been performed and were completely normal. Echocardiogram with mild left atrial enlargement and decreased left ventricular ejection fraction. Echocardiogram revealed single and complete left bundle branch block. The patient's family was counseled regarding prognosis, a complete medical history was thoroughly discussed with the patient and his wife, and therapeutic recommendations were all based on current medical recommendations. Treatment with digoxin, furosemide, and Sotalol was initiated. The patient was at risk of congestive heart failure, and the risks for sudden death, and the patient was discussed with the family. The patient's family was recommended by care practice and a Holter monitor to determine 24 hour global heart rate and rhythm. The patient's life threatening ventricular

Sinbad

Sinbad received an echocardiogram by a mobile sonographer within a few days after his wellness visit to his primary veterinarian. His diagnosis was the same: early dilated cardiomyopathy. Notations were made by the mobile sonographer that arrhythmias were present during the echocardiogram and that further diagnostics to evaluate these arrhythmias would be prudent. The cardiologist who remotely interpreted Sinbad's echocardiogram made similar recommendations as well. The cardiologist gave the option to start Pimobendan but noted that he was not yet in congestive heart failure and this drug could be optional. Sinbad was started on Enalapril only, and a recheck echocardiogram was recommended in six months. The owners were never counseled as to the potential severity of his DCM and lethality of Sinbad's arrhythmia.



Paladin And Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy – A Success Story!

Early referral and appropriate treatment, with collaboration between the board-certified veterinary cardiologists at CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets (CVCA), and Paladin's primary care veterinarian, resulted in a longer, healthier life with his family.

Paladin, John Kennedy's beautiful, male, black cat lived for 13 years with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) thanks to the life-saving treatment he received at CVCA. Paladin walked into Mr. Kennedy's life in August 1997 as a cat living on the streets near Mr. Kennedy's home. During Halloween of that year, Mr. Kennedy became concerned for Paladin's safety, as a black cat wandering the streets on a high-traffic night could meet with unfortunate consequences. Reluctantly, Mr. Kennedy brought him inside where he successfully introduced him to Mr. Kennedy's other cats, Oliver and Mimi.

At six years of age, on a routine physical examination, Paladin was diagnosed with a heart murmur by his primary care veterinarian, Dr. Anne Sinclair at Cat Sense. His veterinarian recommended a consultation with the cardiologists at CVCA. At their first visit with Dr. McGregor Ferguson, Paladin was diagnosed with HCM, the most common heart disease in cats. This is a disease in which the heart muscle becomes thicker than normal and can cause irregular heartbeats, sudden death, heart enlargement, and congestive heart failure. It is usually a genetic/inherited condition and is common in young, male cats, like Paladin. Mr. Kennedy was frightened and worried when he heard the diagnosis—this was serious! He was concerned that Paladin only had a few months to live, but, thankfully, his first impression was wrong. Dr. Ferguson placed Paladin on medications that helped stabilize his heart disease, prevent blood clots and prevent progression of the heart enlargement.

It took a while to figure out how to administer the medications, but, fortunately, Paladin enjoyed taking his medications in baby food. Over the years, Paladin saw various cardiologists at CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets who worked with his primary care veterinarian, Dr. Sinclair, to optimize Paladin's therapy and his condition improved, and stabilized for many years.

Paladin eventually crossed the Rainbow Bridge on January 11, 2016 at 19 years of age, due to complications unrelated to his heart disease. Because of the prompt referral from his primary care veterinarian, Paladin was able to receive early and ongoing treatments. By co-managing Paladin's care with his primary care veterinarian, CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets helped Paladin survive HCM for 13 years. Fortunately, HCM does not have to be fatal – don't delay an early diagnosis and treatment.



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Two Dobermans Case Study

Paladin Case Study

CVCA is the leading choice for veterinary cardiology. Our team of board-certified cardiologists, residents, nurses, and client care representatives sees more pets with heart disease than any other practice worldwide. Our expertise and top of the line echocardiography equipment ensures accurate diagnosis and the best outcome for your pet.



Texas

AUSTIN

(CVCA inside Austin Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center)
7300 Ranch Rd 2222, Bldg 5, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78730
P 512-745-3698
F 512-713-0998
E cvcawnaustin@cvcavets.com

AUSTIN

(CVCA inside VCA Capital Area Veterinary Specialists)
7958 Shoal Creek Blvd



Exceptional Cardiac Care for Pets and their families



CVCA is the leading choice for veterinary cardiology. Our team of board-certified cardiologists, residents, nurses, and client care representatives sees more pets with heart disease than any other practice worldwide. Our expertise and top of the line echocardiography equipment ensures accurate diagnosis and the best outcome for your pet.



Maryland

ANNAPOLIS (inside Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center)
808 Bestgate Road • Annapolis, MD 21401
P 410-224-0039 | F 410-224-3735 | cvcannapolis@cvcavets.com

COLUMBIA (inside Chesapeake Veterinary Referral Center)
10000 Old Columbia Road • Columbia, MD 21046
P 443-583-3131 | F 443-588-5666 | cvcacolumbia@cvcavets.com

FREDERICK (inside CARE Veterinary Center)
1080 West Patrick Street • Frederick, MD 21703
P 240-457-4387 | F 240-457-4487 | cvcafrederick@cvcavets.com

GAITHERSBURG (inside Veterinary Referral Associates)
500 Perry Parkway • Gaithersburg, MD 20877
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ROCKVILLE (inside BluePearl Specialty & Emergency Pet Hospital)
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Virginia

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8500 Arlington Blvd • Fairfax, VA 22031
P 571-348-3888 | F 571-395-8434 | cvc Fairfax@cvcavets.com

LEESBURG (inside The LifeCentre)
165 Fort Evans Road NE • Leesburg, VA 20176
P 703-669-9311 | F 703-669-9312 | cvc leesburg@cvcavets.com

RICHMOND (inside Dogwood Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center)
5918 W. Broad Street • Richmond, VA 23230
P 804-497-8940 | F 804-497-8941 | cvc richmond@cvcavets.com

SPRINGFIELD (inside The Regional Veterinary Referral Center)
6651 F Backlick Road • Springfield, VA 22150
P 703-451-4868 | F 703-451-5075 | cvc springfield@cvcavets.com

VIENNA (inside Hope Advanced Veterinary Center)
140 Park Street SE • Vienna, VA 22180
P 703-281-7717 | F 703-242-8358 | cvcvienna@cvcavets.com



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Exceptional Cardiac Care for Pets and their families



CVCA's Doctors are Diplomates of the ACVIM within the College of Cardiology (www.acvim.org)

www.cvcavets.com

ers are
e ACVIM
f Cardiology
(org)

com
@cvcavets
on information

EXCELLENCE COMPASSION INTEGRITY

Brochure - Texas

Brochure - MD & VA



Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia

What is tricuspid valve dysplasia (TVD)?

- Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia is an uncommon congenital heart defect accounting for approximately 7% of all heart defects in dogs and is rare in cats.
- It is more commonly seen in Labrador Retrievers, Irish Setters, Great Danes, and German Shepherds, although any breed can be affected.
- It is a malformation of the tricuspid valve and its associated supporting structures that assist in proper valve closure. The tricuspid valve, or right atrioventricular valve, separates the right atrium from the right ventricle.
- TVD results in a lack of complete valve closure leading to a backflow of blood (regurgitation) up into the right atrium.
- If the regurgitation is severe enough, the right side (right ventricle and right atrium) of heart becomes enlarged.
- As the right side of the heart progressively increases in size, right sided congestive heart failure can occur. Fluid can accumulate within the abdominal and/or chest cavity as a consequence of right sided heart failure.

How is it treated?

- Therapy is usually not instituted if right sided heart enlargement are present.
- Medical therapy is aimed at improving the onset of congestive heart failure by controlling fluid accumulation and preventing further development.
- Occasionally, a simple in-office procedure can be performed to remove excess abdominal fluid to provide immediate relief to any uncomfortable patient.

What is the prognosis?

- Pets with mild TVD live normal lives and require no medical intervention.
- Pets with severe TVD often develop congestive heart failure within the first several years of life. Recent advances in medication have improved the quality of life for many months beyond the onset of symptoms.



How is TVD diagnosed?

- A preliminary diagnosis can be made by a veterinarian based on a physical exam and chest x-ray findings.
- Often a heart ultrasound (echocardiogram) is the first routine test of a problem. An echocardiogram (irregular heart failure).
- An echocardiogram (heart) performed by a veterinarian can definitively determine the severity of the heart failure and enlargement.



Systemic Hypertension

What is Systemic Hypertension?

- Blood pressure (BP) is the force exerted by circulating blood on the walls of blood vessels.
- Blood volume, constriction or dilation of the arteries, and heart rate all have an effect on blood pressure.
- In humans, measured as:
 - ▶ Systolic pressure (immediately following ejection of blood from the heart).
 - ▶ Diastolic pressure (just prior to ejection of blood from the heart).
 - ▶ It is represented as systolic pressure/diastolic pressure, e.g. 120/80 mmHg.
- In pets, we typically only measure the systolic pressure (top number).
- Normal systolic pressure in dogs and cats is in the 120-130 mmHg range.
- An allowance of up to 160 mmHg systolic is often used since many of our patients are quite anxious in the hospital setting ("white coat effect"). Just like in humans, pets can have high blood pressure or systemic hypertension.

How is Systemic Hypertension diagnosed?

- A CVCA nurse will usually measure your pet's blood pressure at each visit. Blood pressure measurement in a pet is similar to the method used at your doctor's office, but instead of a stethoscope, we use a Doppler probe to listen for pulses.
- Blood pressure measurement is usually recommended in:
 - ▶ Any dog or cat over the age of 7-8.
 - ▶ Any pet who has been prescribed cardiac medications.
 - ▶ Pets with certain underlying diseases that may predispose them to high blood pressure.
- Systemic hypertension is diagnosed by repeatable measurements of an elevated blood pressure.
- When blood pressure is chronically increased, it has negative effects on many of the body's organs including the eyes, brain, spinal cord, kidneys, and heart.



- Symptoms directly attributable to hypertension include:
 - ▶ Sudden blindness
 - ▶ Behavioral changes
 - ▶ Lethargy
 - ▶ Nose bleeds
 - ▶ Congestive heart failure
 - ▶ Stroke-like symptoms
- Blood work and a urinalysis are indicated to help determine a potential primary cause for your pet's systemic hypertension.
- Additional diagnostic testing such as an abdominal ultrasound may also be recommended to help find an underlying disease condition that is responsible for the high blood pressure.

What are the causes?

- Primary or Essential Hypertension (not resulting from an underlying disease) is uncommon.
- Secondary hypertension may result from concurrent endocrine disorders like Cushing's disease, diabetes mellitus and hyperthyroidism. In addition hypertension is commonly associated with chronic kidney disease in dogs and cats.

Treatment

- Treatment of the underlying disease may result in lowering of the blood pressure to a point where anti-hypertensive medications are not required.
- Medications may be used to lower blood pressure and to prevent damage to other body organs.
- Modification of dietary habits and body condition may be helpful in the management of hypertension.
- In every case, regular monitoring of blood pressure with your primary care veterinarian and/or CVCA is required to ensure adequate reduction of your pet's blood pressure to a safe range.



Subaortic Stenosis

What is Subaortic Stenosis (SAS)?

- A relatively common congenital (inherited) heart defect in the dog and a rare defect in the cat.
- It is most often identified in large and giant breed dogs such as the Newfoundland, Golden Retriever, Boxer, Rottweiler, German Shepherd, English Bulldog, Great Dane, German Short-haired Pointer, and Bouvier des Flandres. It is reported in many other purebreds as well as mixed breeds of dogs.
- It consists of abnormal tissue located just below the aortic valve that creates an obstruction the heart has to overcome to pump blood out to the body.
- Stenosis makes the heart work harder than normal. As a result, the heart muscle can become thickened.

How is it treated?

- Prophylactic antibiotics:
 - ▶ All dogs with SAS are at an increased risk for developing infections of their aortic valve (endocarditis) and should receive antibiotics when they have wounds or are undergoing surgery or dental procedures.
- Limited exercise:
 - ▶ Leashed walks and short trips to the back yard for dogs with moderate to severe disease.
 - ▶ Try to avoid vigorous burst type activity
- Cardiac medications:
 - ▶ Beta-blockers are often recommended for moderate to severely affected SAS dogs.
 - ▶ Additional therapy to treat specific arrhythmias and heart failure may also be required.
- Surgical and catheterization procedures:
 - ▶ Available at some university veterinary hospitals; however, they have not yet been shown to improve survival times.

What is the prognosis?

- Mildly affected dogs are expected to have normal life spans and will usually remain asymptomatic.
- Severely affected dogs may die suddenly when young to middle-aged.
- It should be noted that SAS can be progressive in some dogs especially in the first few years of life. Thus, even mildly affected, asymptomatic dogs should be periodically reexamined as recommended by your cardiologist or your primary care veterinarian.



The abnormal tissue obstructing normal flow out of the left ventricle is shown.

Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia Handout

Subaortic Stenosis Handout

System Hypertension Handout

Pulmonic Stenosis

What is Pulmonic Stenosis (PS)?

- Pulmonic Stenosis is one of the most commonly reported congenital heart defects in dogs, yet rarely reported in cats.
- It can occur in any breed, but is seen more frequently in Chihuahuas, Boxers, Labradors, Newfoundlanders, West Highland White terriers, with known patterns of inheritance in both Beagles and English Bulldogs.
- Pulmonic stenosis is a defect involving the pulmonic valve and/or the surrounding structures of the right ventricle and pulmonary artery. The pulmonic valve normally opens during ventricular contraction allowing deoxygenated blood to be pumped from the right ventricle to the lungs. PS is a narrowing of this region (stenosis) resulting in an increased workload on the right ventricle causing hypertrophy (excessive heart muscle thickening).
- The most common form of the defect involves thickened, immobile pulmonic valve leaflets, however some forms of this disease are more complicated. One such defect involving an aberrant right coronary artery in both English Bulldogs and Boxers is important to recognize, as this form of PS is not as amenable to the most common interventional procedures.

and chest radiographs, however, a dog requires an echocardiogram by a veterinarian to determine the severity of the defect, detect cardiac abnormalities that may require surgical intervention, and helps to

Severity of Pulmonic Stenosis

- Mild PS: Pets usually live normal lives and do not need medications.
- Moderate to severe PS may result in:
 - exercise intolerance
 - shortness of breath
 - fainting
 - fatal arrhythmias (rare)

How is it treated?

- For moderate to severe disease the treatment is usually balloon valvuloplasty.
- Minimally invasive catheterization: a balloon is guided by fluoroscopy of stenosis and inflated under pressure in stretching or tearing open of the narrowing blood flow.
- In patients with severe disease, the clinical signs, improves quality of life

Normal Heart Pulmonic Stenosis

How is it

- Dogs with
- A murmur
- vet
- investigat
- A presum
- vet



Pulmonary Hypertension

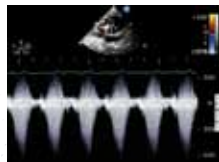
Pulmonary hypertension is defined as high blood pressure within the vessels of the lungs. Primary pulmonary hypertension (meaning not resulting from another disease process) is rare in veterinary medicine and is diagnosed by ruling out all other causes of pulmonary hypertension.

Most common causes of pulmonary hypertension in dogs include:

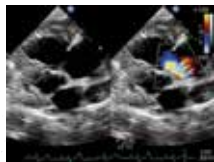
- Chronic lung disease and low blood oxygen concentration
 - Chronic bronchitis (COPD)
 - Pulmonary fibrosis (scarring of the lung tissue)
- Obstruction of the blood vessels
 - Pulmonary thromboembolism (PTE, blood clot to the lungs)
 - Typically dogs with PTEs have another disease process that predisposes them to spontaneously forming blood clots within the body. These processes most commonly include a recent history of major trauma, Cushing's disease, protein-losing intestinal or kidney disease, and cancer.
 - Heartworm disease
 - Obstruction by the worms themselves and reaction of the blood vessels to the worms' presence.
 - Cancer
- Long-standing left-sided heart disease and heart failure
 - Degenerative mitral valve disease
 - Dilated cardiomyopathy

Clinical signs and physical exam findings common in pulmonary hypertension patients:

- Coughing
- Changes in breathing - increased respiratory rate and/or effort
- Exercise intolerance
- Fainting (syncope)
- Heart murmur
- Abnormal lung sounds (crackles +/- wheezes)
- Cyanosis of the tongue or mucous membranes (blue/purple color to the tongue or gums)
- Signs of right-sided congestive heart failure (most commonly free abdominal fluid)



The speed of the tricuspid valve leak can be used to estimate lung pressures.



Color-compare image showing severe right heart enlargement and moderate tricuspid regurgitation.



Short axis view of the ventricles showing severe right ventricular dilation and flattening of the septum.



Preanesthetic Evaluation of the Canine Patient "Knowing is Half the Battle"

General anesthesia is an everyday occurrence in all of our practices. Despite the repetition of this procedure in practice, the loss of a patient can occur anytime. CVCA wants to help avoid any unexpected anesthetic related complication or even death by providing this outline of preanesthetic recommendations in preparation for Dental Month in February.

Several large scale studies of anesthetic related morbidity and mortality in small animal patients have revealed a mortality rate between 1 and 4 deaths per 1,000 anesthetic events^{1,2,3,4}. This rate is relatively low,

frequently dependent on our physical exam skills. The detection of a murmur, arrhythmia, or extra heart sound requires further evaluation of the pre-anesthetic patient prior to induction.

Diagnostics for the Canine Cardiac Patient

Thoracic radiography

Thoracic radiographs assess cardiac silhouette size, the vascular pattern and provide information regarding the hemodynamic significance of a murmur⁵. Radiographic interpretation of the cardiac silhouette is a subjective assessment that is influenced by patient position, radiographic technique, phase of respiration, and chest conformation. Utilization of the vertebral heart scale (VHS) adds an objective measurement to aid in our assessment⁶. VHS can also be affected by patient positioning and breed^{8,9}.

Electrocardiography

An electrocardiogram is indicated for any patient with an arrhythmia and will identify conduction abnormalities which should prompt further evaluation.

Blood assays

N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP), a biomarker of ventricular wall stress, has become available as a potential screening tool for cardiac disease. This test is useful to delineate between cardiac and respiratory causes of dyspnea¹⁰. Its clinical utility in the staging of patients with valvular disease is uncertain due to overlap between groups of patients with or without heart enlargement^{11,12} as well as significant day to day variability in the individual patient¹³.

In large breed dogs, particularly breeds at risk for the development of dilated cardiomyopathy, NT-proBNP may prove to be a useful screening tool in the detection of occult disease¹⁴. These patients frequently have more subtle abnormalities on physical exam, resulting in decreased detection and frequent underestimation of occult cardiac disease. Thus, based on signalment and

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Pulmonic Stenosis Handout

Preanesthetic Evaluation Handout

Pulmonary Hypertension Handout



Nutritional Supplements for Cardiac Patients

NUTRITION FOR CARDIAC PATIENTS

- Diet can slow disease progression, minimize medication requirements, and in some cases, cure the underlying disease.
- Individualize the diet of your patient based on type and extent of heart disease, other health concerns, and what the patient will eat.
- Change diet gradually (over approximately one month) to avoid GI upset.
- When starting medications, avoid changes to the diet for the first two weeks **and** until the pet is eating well.
- Consultations with a veterinary nutritionist are available with the help of your primary veterinarian at: <http://vetnutrition.tufts.edu>.

SODIUM AND DIETS

Salt (sodium chloride) restriction is important to decrease the retention of water and help control blood pressure.

Heart Disease	Category	Allowable sodium as a % of DRY matter	mg of Sodium per 100 kcal of food
Asymptomatic patient (i.e., no active heart failure, but at risk)	Mild sodium	0.3-0.4	80-100
Symptomatic patient (i.e., history of heart failure)			
Not recommended			

For information about content of various food items, visit <http://vetmed.tufts.edu>

L-CARNITINE

- L-carnitine is an essential component of energy production of energy.
- Carnitine deficiency can lead to dilated cardiomyopathy.
- The L-form of carnitine is the active form.



OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS (FISH OIL)

- Dogs with heart failure have been shown to benefit from omega-3 fatty acids.
- Commercial fish oil supplements vary in EPA and DHA they contain.
 - ▶ A common formulation is a one gram capsule containing 180 mg EPA and 120 mg DHA. The recommended dose is one capsule per 50 lbs of body weight.
 - ▶ Avoid cod liver oil, flax, flaxseed, and added vitamins A and D (vitamin E is an antioxidant).
- Beneficial cardiovascular effects shown in dogs include:
 - ▶ Improved energy metabolism in heart failure.
 - ▶ Anti-inflammatory (heart failure is an inflammatory disease).
 - ▶ Reduced potential for arrhythmias.
 - ▶ Combats weight loss related to heart failure.

TAURINE

- Taurine is an amino acid found in heart muscle and is necessary for normal heart function.



Pericardial Effusion

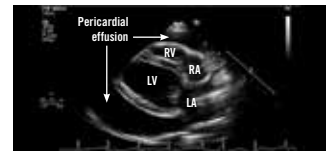
What is pericardial effusion?

- Pericardial effusion is the abnormal accumulation of fluid within the sac surrounding the heart (pericardium).
- There is normally only a very small amount of fluid in that sac to protect the heart and provide lubrication to prevent friction between the moving heart and surrounding organs.
- Pericardial effusion usually causes fluid accumulation in the belly and causes symptoms of weakness, breathing difficulties, and sometimes collapse.

How is it diagnosed?

What is the prognosis?

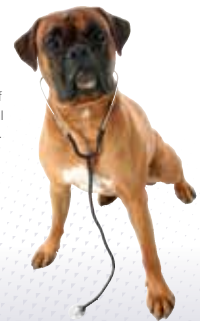
- The outcome is widely variable and depends on the cause of the problem.
- We are actively researching the utility of cardiac biomarkers to help discern the underlying cause of pericardial effusion.



Echocardiogram image of heart with pericardial fluid surrounding the heart with all four chambers shown. (RV= right ventricle, RA= right atrium, LV= left ventricle, LA= left atrium)

How is it treated?

- Removal of the fluid within the pericardial sac (pericardial tap) may be required.
 - ▶ This is done by inserting a catheter through the chest wall via ultrasound guidance and withdrawing the abnormal fluid present within the sac around the heart.
- Surgical removal of the pericardium (pericardiectomy) may be recommended in cases of recurrent pericardial effusion. This procedure results in a significant improvement in quality of life and long-term survival in these types of patients.



Patent Ductus Arteriosus

What is Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA)?

- PDA is the failure of a large blood vessel (ductus arteriosus) to close just after birth.
- In a fetus, this vessel is normal and allows blood to bypass the lungs since the lungs are not used in utero.
- At birth, the vessel should close within hours, directing blood to flow into the newly inflated lungs.

Who gets this defect?

- PDA is the most frequently seen congenital defect of dogs and is sometimes seen in cats.
- The most commonly affected breeds are Maltese, Poodle, Pomeranian, Keeshond, Bichon Frise, Chihuahua and German Shepherds.
- PDA is more common in females than males in most breeds.

Effects of PDA

- Pets have a greater than 50% mortality rate for patients with a PDA by one year of age if left untreated.
- Heart enlargement that can result in secondary left sided congestive heart failure (fluid in lungs).

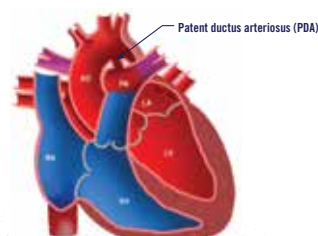
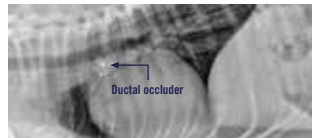


Diagram showing abnormal flow from the aorta (AO) to the pulmonary artery (PA) across the PDA.



Thoracic radiograph revealing Amplatzer ductal occluder device after successful deployment.

Treatment available for PDA

- Based on the size of the patient at time of diagnosis and severity of complications, we will recommend one of two procedures:
 - ▶ **Transvenous Catheterization:**
 - In many patients we use non-invasive occlusion of the PDA.
 - A long catheter is placed in a hind leg and passed into the abnormal vessel using fluoroscopic guidance.
 - A device called an Amplatzer ductal occluder is then deployed to stop the abnormal blood flow through the PDA.
 - ▶ **Surgical Ligation:**
 - Smaller dogs and cats require open chest surgery to tie off the vessel itself.
 - The procedure requires surgery in the chest cavity but does not require opening the heart itself.
 - We collaborate with board certified veterinary surgeons who have experience with this procedure to ensure a high success rate and minimize the incidence of complications.

Fortunately, with appropriate diagnosis and successful correction of a PDA under the care of a board certified veterinary cardiologist, the vast majority of treated pets will live a full and healthy life.

Nutritional Supplements Handout

Pericardial Effusion Handout

Patent Ductus Arteriosus Handout



Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy in Cats

What is Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)?

- HCM is the most common form of heart disease in cats and is the result of a genetic mutation(s).
- HCM causes progressive thickening (hypertrophy) of the heart muscle (left ventricle) and dilation of the left atrium. (See Figure).
- Over time the thickening can create a stiff heart possibly resulting in congestive heart failure (fluid in or around the lungs).
- Signs of congestive heart failure in cats are increased breathing rate or effort, lethargy, decreased appetite, and/or reclusive behavior.
- Younger cats often develop a more aggressive form of the disease than older patients.
- Older cats can develop a thickened heart muscle from other conditions such as overactive thyroid, kidney disease, or high blood pressure.

How is it diagnosed?

- Your primary care veterinarian will refer you to a board certified veterinary cardiologist for a heart murmur, a blood test, and/or an annual or



Echocardiogram image of heart affects the same anatomy as the above image. Note the severely thickened left small LV lumen (black area) that are h

- An echocardiogram (ultrasound heart) by a board certified veterinary cardiologist is the gold standard for definitive diagnosis.

How do you treat HCM?

- Most patients benefit from medication.



Feline Hyperthyroidism

What is hyperthyroidism?

- Feline hyperthyroidism is a common disease in middle aged to older cats.
- It is caused by an enlarged and overactive thyroid gland(s) – usually a benign tumor that causes production of excessive thyroid hormone (T4).
- Signs of an overactive thyroid can include:
 - ▶ Weight loss/muscle wasting

How is it treated?

Treatment options include:

- Methimazole an oral medication that blocks the production of thyroid hormone. Some cats can be treated using this therapy as a lotion/gel absorbed through the skin.
- I-131 (radioactive iodine) treatment is used in both cats and people. This therapy entails giving the patient radioactive iodine which concentrates in and selectively destroys the overactive thyroid tissue/tumor.
- Diet: Hill's pet food now offers a diet to treat cats with hyperthyroidism called Y/D diet. Iodine is an essential component of thyroid hormones. Hill's Y/D diet is a severely iodine restricted food, thus preventing the thyroid glands from producing excessive thyroid hormone.
- Your primary care veterinarian will help determine the best course of therapy for your cat. The ideal treatment for each patient depends on the severity of the hyperthyroidism, concurrent illnesses (most importantly the heart and kidney), and the ability of your cat to be medicated. Our goal is open collaboration with you and your primary care veterinarian. Together, we develop individualized treatment to improve the quantity and quality of your feline companion's life.



Feline Arterial Thromboembolism

What is Feline Arterial Thromboembolism (FATE)?

- FATE is one of the most devastating consequences of cardiac disease in the feline patient.
- It occurs secondary to an enlarged left atrium seen commonly in feline heart disease resulting in poor blood flow.
- Blood clots can form within the left atrium. These clots (emboli) can break loose and enter the body's circulation resulting in complete blockage of blood flow to limbs, other organs or the brain.

What happens with FATE?

- Most commonly the clot will exit the heart, travel down the aorta, and lodge in the iliac arteries resulting in complete interruption of blood flow to the rear legs.
- Cats will develop a sudden onset of weakness and an inability to use the rear legs often accompanied by pain, vocalization, and respiratory difficulties.
- This is a medical emergency and prompt veterinary care should be obtained.
- Clots can potentially travel to any part of the body. Clinical signs can vary including front limb lameness, inappropriate mentation, or even sudden death.

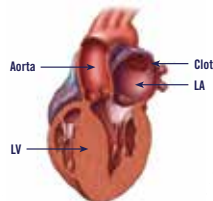


Figure of heart depicting thickened left ventricular walls (LV), enlarged left atrium (LA) and clot within left atrium.



Echocardiogram revealing an oval clot within the outpocketing of the left atrium known as the left auricular appendage (outlined).

How is it prevented?

- If your cat has an enlarged left atrium, your cardiologist may prescribe medications to help prevent the occurrence of an inappropriate blood clot (most commonly Aspirin and/or Clopidogrel (Plavix)).
- Choice of medication is dependent on the individual patient's risk factors.
- There are likely certain genetic factors that affect your cat's risk for forming blood clots. Some of this is sadly unpreventable and beyond current medical therapies.

What is the prognosis?

- If the clot enters the circulation, the overall prognosis for the patient is poor.
- With aggressive medical therapy and supportive care to control pain, treat heart failure if present, and promote circulation data suggests that 15-50% of cats can survive an initial clot event.
- The road to recovery in these patients can be long and we are unable to predict how quickly or completely an individual cat will regain function of the affected limb(s).
- Some cats that survive the initial episode will never have an additional event, however, most cats will have another clot event within 6-12 months despite aggressive anti-platelet therapy.
- Our goal is an open collaboration with you and your primary care veterinarian in order to optimize the quantity and quality of your feline companion's life.

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy in Cats Handout

Feline Hyperthyroidism Handout

Feline Arterial Thromboembolism Handout



Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy

What is Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC)?

- ARVC a primary disease of the heart muscle.
- It most commonly affects the Boxer, however, it is also reported in the English Bulldog, American Staffordshire, and rarely in cats.
- It is characterized by the progressive replacement of normal heart muscle cells by fat and/or fibrous tissue.
- In more advanced cases, ARVC may also affect the left ventricle resembling another common cardiac disease: dilated cardiomyopathy.
- ARVC is an adult-onset inherited disease, with the presenting age and range of clinical symptoms in the offspring of affected parents being quite variable.
- The incidence of ARVC typically increases with age, with clinical signs often becoming apparent around middle age.
- Patients with the disease may present with asymptomatic cardiac arrhythmias that are noted on routine examination, fainting spells (syncope), congestive heart failure (coughing, respiratory difficulties, abdominal distention), or even sudden cardiac death.

How is it diagnosed?

- Definitive diagnosis is based on a combination of:
 - ▶ Family history
 - ▶ Presence of heart rhythm abnormalities

Figure 1
Boxer dog showing



Figure 2
Three lead ECG consistent with right sided origin premature beats which is commonly noted in dogs with ARVC. This rhythm can be particularly dangerous and life threatening arrhythmia.

- ▶ History of syncope (fainting) or exercise intolerance
- ▶ Exclusion of other diseases that may be responsible for similar clinical signs
- ▶ An arrhythmia, and/or heart murmur noted by your family veterinarian during a wellness visit prompting further testing
- ▶ Symptoms of congestive heart failure
- ▶ An electrocardiogram (ECG) demonstrating abnormal electrical activity of the heart. It is a non-invasive test, useful for its ability to detect



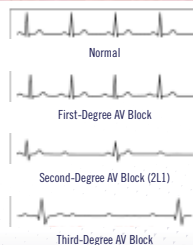
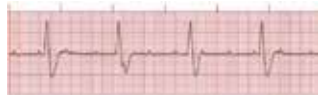
Complete (Third degree) AV Block

What is Third Degree or AV Block?

- A disease of the electrical system within the heart.
- Lack of conduction of the normal electrical impulse from the top to the bottom portion of the heart.
- The heart rate becomes too slow and also not able to increase with exercise or excitement.
- Causes weakness and/or collapse in many patients.

How do you treat a Third Degree or AV Block?

- This condition requires implantation of a permanent pacemaker.
- The generator is placed under the skin in the neck region and the lead is passed through the jugular vein into the heart.
- This procedure is typically well tolerated with low risk for complications.
- Potential problems with the procedure include anesthetic complications, dislodgment or fracture of the pacemaker lead, infection of the pacemaker site, or clot formation on the lead.



What are the risks without pacemaker implantation?

- There is a constant risk for sudden death.
- Non-paced patients are also at risk for left-sided congestive heart failure, signs of which include:
 - ▶ Increased respiratory rate/effort at rest
 - ▶ Coughing
 - ▶ Exercise intolerance
 - ▶ Cyanosis (blue discoloration to the tongue or gums)
 - ▶ Weakness or collapsing

If I'd like to pursue surgery, what is the next step?

- To pursue surgery, please contact us and we will pair you with one of our surgery coordinators to schedule the pacemaker and answer your questions.

Is additional testing required prior to surgery?

- Yes. We will need:
 - ▶ Chest radiographs
 - ▶ Complete bloodwork (CBC/Chemistry/UA with UPC/T4)
 - ▶ In some cases, an abdominal ultrasound and/or a tick panel are also required

Fortunately, with appropriate diagnosis and successful pacemaker implantation under the care of a board-certified veterinary cardiologist, the vast majority of treated pets have a good prognosis.



Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Dogs

What is Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM)?

- Heart muscle disease that causes loss of heart muscle strength, enlargement of the heart, and a decreased ability to pump blood through the body (heart failure).
- Affects any age dog, but occurrence increases with age.
- Heart failure can be compared to a common pump. If the sump pump in your basement fails, water backs up into the basement; if the left heart fails, fluid backs up into the lungs; if the right heart fails, fluid backs up in the belly.
- Irregular heartbeat (arrhythmias/abnormal electrical activity)

How is DCM Diagnosed?

- Through a cardiac evaluation and echocardiogram (sonogram of the heart) performed by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist such as those at CVCA.
- Holter monitors are often required to check the heart rhythm over 24 hours. These devices are worn by the patient in a small backpack and usually are well tolerated.

How is it treated?

- The specific treatment is tailored to the individual patient.
- Oral medications are most commonly used and many are the same as those used for people with heart disease.
- Therapy improves the heart's ability to pump and controls the signs of congestive heart failure.
- Treatment extends the life of the patient while allowing the pet excellent quality of life.
- Some patients also need medications to improve their heart rhythm. These medications are crucial to minimize the risk of arrhythmias and sudden death.



Echocardiographic image of a heart affected by DCM. The view is upside down compare to figure 1. The heart muscle is thin and both of the chambers of the left heart are dilated.

Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular
Cardiomyopathy Handout

Dilated Cardiomyopathy
in Dogs Handout

Complete (Third degree)
AV Block Handout



Congestive Heart Failure - What is it and What to Expect

What is Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)?

- CHF occurs when heart disease is so severe that the cardiovascular system is no longer able to maintain its functions.
- Normally, blood returns from the body to the right side of the heart, is pumped to the lungs to be oxygenated, returns to the left side of the heart, and is finally pumped to the body again. A basement sump pump is analogous to the heart's function. If the basement sump pump fails to pump water away from the foundation during a rainstorm, the basement floods. When the left side of the heart fails as a pump, the lungs begin to "flood" and when the right side of the heart fails, the abdominal and/or chest cavities "flood."

How serious is CHF?

- A common misconception is that CHF is an end-of-life disease process.
- Fortunately, while the long-term prognosis for most cardiac diseases resulting in heart failure is guarded, most animals with congestive heart failure will live many months to even years on medical therapy while still maintaining a good quality of life.

How is it treated?

- Increase the heart's force of contractions: by supporting and improving the overall strength of the heart muscle more blood can be pumped out to the rest of the body and its vital organs
 - Positive inotropic agents (improve the strength of the heart muscle)
 - Pimobendan
 - Digoxin

What to expect and monitor in your pet with congestive heart failure:

- Some pets may experience increased thirst and urination. If this seems excessive, please contact CVCA as we can often modify dosages to help improve or resolve this concern.
- Kidney function and electrolyte levels will need to be monitored while on these medications via blood tests performed by your primary care veterinarian. We will provide instructions on the frequency and type of blood tests to be performed.
- All drugs can have some side effects and, just like in people, all dogs and cats may react differently to certain medications. The medications we use are meant to help your pet feel much better. If you feel your pet is lethargic, depressed, has a decreased appetite, vomiting or diarrhea, please contact CVCA and/or your primary care veterinarian.
- Most medications are available in generic form and tolerated well by patients.
- At-home monitoring of your pet for recurrent signs of congestive heart failure such as:
 - increased coughing
 - labored breathing
 - persistent increase in respiratory rate or effort
 - fainting
 - weakness
 - exercise intolerance
- If you note any of the above symptoms or have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to phone us at CVCA. Most of the time, we can adjust medications over the phone to control recurrent CHF symptoms.



When Your Pet Has a Heart Murmur...

What is a heart murmur?

- A heart murmur is an abnormal swishing noise in your pet's heart.
- Using a stethoscope, your primary care veterinarian determines if a heart murmur is present.
- The loudness of the murmur does not necessarily correlate with the severity of disease.

What does it mean for my pet?

- Most heart murmurs indicate underlying cardiac disease, the severity of which varies widely.
- A cardiac evaluation by a board certified veterinary cardiologist when the abnormal sounds are first noted provides the best care and outcome for your pet.
- Most pets seem fine on the outside until they develop severe heart disease because their instinct is to hide signs of the disease.
- All too often, pets end up in heart failure and the emergency room when early diagnosis and treatment could have resulted in a much longer and healthier life.
- Most cardiac disease in pets can be managed long term with medication. Surgery is rarely indicated.

How do I find out what is wrong with my pet?

- An echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart) by a board certified veterinary cardiologist is the gold standard for definitive diagnosis.
- Veterinary cardiologists are experts in pet heart disease and have 4 years of training beyond veterinary college including a series of exams to become board certified.
- At CVCA, you are with your pet during the entire visit while we non-invasively diagnose your pet's condition and tailor the treatment specifically to your pet and family.

What is my veterinarian's role?

- Your primary care veterinarian is an integral part of your pet's cardiac care and receive a report of your pet's cardiac evaluation the same day your visit occurs.
- CVCA works together with you and your doctor to form a team to care for your pet.
- Our goals are to delay or prevent congestive heart failure thus avoiding stressful emergency room visits.
- After your visit, we are available to emergency and primary care veterinarians 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for assistance with patient care.

Final note:

- At CVCA, we are passionate about your pet's well being and the human-animal bond. Please visit our website at www.cvcavets.com or call us to obtain more information regarding heart diseases in pets and the services we provide.




Congestive Heart Failure - What is it and What to Expect Handout

When Your Pet has a Heart Murmur Handout

Chagas Disease



Facts about Chagas disease:

- Chagas disease affects dogs by damaging the right side of the heart.
- Dogs become infected after either getting bit by or eating a kissing bug or assassin bug.
- Both the bugs and the disease are common in Texas and Gulf Coast states, with as many as 18% of shelter dogs in Texas infected.
- The bite of the bug infects the dog with a parasite that travels in the bloodstream.
- The parasite (*T. cruzi*) prefers to settle in the muscle of the right side of the heart where it can cause major complications.
- Once in the heart muscle, it can cause rhythm problems, muscle weakness and poor heart function.
- In the early stages of infection, dogs



kissing bug



Can I get Chagas disease from my dog?

- There are no reported cases of canine to human transmission.
- If your dog has Chagas disease, you do not need to make changes in your day to day life.

How will I know if my dog is infected?

- Concern regarding Chagas disease arises when dogs are diagnosed with serious heart rhythm problems, requiring the need for examination by a veterinary cardiologist.
- The cardiologist will diagnose the specific heart rhythm problem and perform an ultrasound of the heart—at which time a right heart enlargement or a weakened muscle could indicate the presence of the parasite.
- If the family has traveled to Texas or Gulf Coast states, a blood test called a Chagas screen and titer would be performed and, in most positive cases, would mean the patient has an active infection.

Tests needed to diagnose Chagas disease:

- An **ECG** to check the heart rhythm.
- A **Holter monitor** device the dog wears to check the heart rhythm (for more than 24 hours), gather more information about any heart rhythm problems and help guide treatment.
- An **echocardiogram**, which is an ultrasound of the heart that measures the heart size and function as some patients with Chagas disease start with a normal heart and get progressively worse.
- A **blood test** to check for antibodies to the parasite with a positive test showing a titer of greater than 1:60.

Treatment:

- The medication for affected dogs manages the damage the parasite causes and can:
 - improve the heart rhythm
 - improve the strength of the heart
 - decrease any fluid that builds up in the body
- There is no specific treatment to get rid of the parasite.

Outcome:

Outcomes are variable, but if the patient has fluid buildup or rhythm problems, the average is a one year survival.

Chronic Degenerative Valvular Disease



What is Chronic Degenerative Valvular Disease?

- It is the most common form of heart disease in dogs and usually affects the mitral valve.
- The condition is slowly progressive and is caused by abnormalities that develop along the edges of the heart valves.
- Over time, the heart enlarges and the heart muscle weakens secondary to the long term leaks (regurgitation) in the valves.
- When the heart can no longer accommodate the abnormal blood flow, the patient develops congestive heart failure - demonstrated by coughing and breathing difficulties.

Are certain breeds prone to this?

- Chronic degenerative valve disease most often affects older small breed dogs of all varieties.
- Large breed dogs and cats develop this condition less often and can sometimes be better tolerated in those patients.

How is it diagnosed?

- Your primary care veterinarian will hear a heart murmur - usually noted as a part of the pet's annual or every six month wellness evaluation.
- They would then refer you and your pet to a board certified veterinary cardiologist such as those of CVCA.

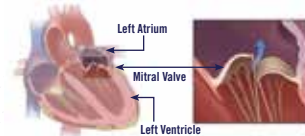


Diagram of the heart depicting close-up of mitral valve regurgitation



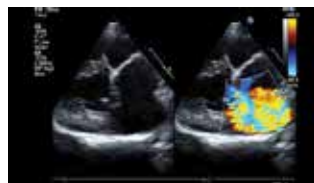
- An echocardiogram (ultrasound or sonogram of the heart) by a veterinary cardiologist is the gold standard for definitive diagnosis.
- Veterinary cardiologists are experts in pet heart disease and have 4 years of training beyond veterinary college including a series of exams to become board-certified.
- At CVCA, you are with your pet during the entire visit while we non-invasively diagnose your pet's condition and tailor the treatment specifically to your pet and family.

What treatment options are available?

- Most patients benefit from medical therapy - readily available heart medications of the same variety used in human patients.
- This condition is progressive in nature and requires vigilant monitoring and consistent follow-up to optimize treatment thus maintaining an ideal quality of life for your treasured family member.

How will my primary care veterinarian be involved?

We collaborate with you and your primary care veterinarian to prevent, delay, and eliminate signs of congestive heart failure while providing your pet optimal quality and length of life.



Echocardiogram images taken simultaneously. The left image shows the thickened mitral valve (MV) bowing backwards into the left atrium (LA). The mosaic of color shown on the right is Doppler technology revealing the turbulent regurgitant flow.

Chagas Disease Handout

Chronic Degenerative Valvular Disease Handout

CLIENT TOUCH



Previous Website

Current Website

NAVIGATING YOUR CVCA VISIT DURING COVID-19



**SAFETY
FIRST**

Clients showing signs of illness, related to COVID-19, should remain at home.
SYMPTOMS INCLUDE: Fever • Shortness of Breath • Dry Cough • Fatigue



PER CDC RECOMMENDATIONS, we ask that **clients wear a mask** during the handoff and return of the pet.



**EMAIL OR CALL
FOR AN APPOINTMENT**



**CLIENT COMPLETES ONLINE
REGISTRATION FORM**
New questions included,
all clients need to complete



CALL UPON APPOINTMENT ARRIVAL
Inform staff on
color/make/model of vehicle



STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE
Lobby and waiting rooms are closed



**OWNERS SECURE PETS ON A
LEASH OR IN A CARRIER**
CVCA staff restricted from getting
into vehicles to secure pets



**CVCA STAFF MEET YOU FOR
CURBSIDE CHECKIN**
Clients step out of vehicle to
hand off leash or carrier



**OWNERS KEEP VEHICLES IN THE SAME
SPOT USED FOR CURBSIDE CHECKIN**
for ease of CVCA staff returning pets



**STAFF WILL CALL OWNERS IF ANY
ADDITIONAL TESTS ARE NEEDED**
beyond the exam, blood pressure,
echocardiogram and ECG's



**PETS RETURNED TO OWNERS
AT CURBSIDE**



**DOCTOR WILL CALL OWNERS TO GO OVER
FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND
ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE**
Calls will be then transferred to client
service representatives to collect
payment via credit cards



**A COPY OF THE PET'S CARDIAC
EVALUATION WILL BE EMAILED
BY END OF THE DAY**
Prescriptions will be faxed to the
pharmacy of your choice and medications
dispensed in-house will be brought
to you at curbside checkout



Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

Navigating Your CVCA Visit
During COVID-19 Flyer

Core Values



Compassion

We respect and value each other, our clients, our patients, and our veterinary partners. We embrace unity as we provide and promote optimal care for pets.

Excellence

We strive for continuous improvement in all areas of our company. We are committed to creating an exceptional work environment, honoring personal development and embodying work life harmony. We improve the health of patients through exceptional medical care and education.

Integrity

We act in accordance with our values at all times. We sustain an environment of trust and honesty.



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www.cvcavets.com •   



Core Values Mouse Pad - Dog

Core Values Mouse Pad - Cat

 **CVCA**
Cardiac Care for Pets
www.cvcavets.com

DATE _____
TIME _____

WITH _____

FOR _____

CVCA at VCA Capital Area Veterinary Specialists (VCA) in Austin, TX
7958 Shoal Creek Blvd • Austin, TX 78757
P 512-920-6508 | F 512-856-9508
cvcaustinshoalcreek@cvcavets.com
www.cvcavets.com Facebook @cvcavets Instagram @cvcavets

 **CVCA**
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www.cvcavets.com

DATE _____
TIME _____

WITH _____

FOR _____

CVCA at Austin Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center in Austin, TX
7300 Ranch Rd 2222, Bldg 5, Suite 100 • Austin, TX 78730
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Cardiac Care for Pets
www.cvcavets.com

134 Fort Evans Road NE • Leesburg, VA 20176

Please call us at the most convenient location to schedule a follow up cardiac evaluation. Dogs and cats can often hide signs and symptoms of heart disease until they are in a crisis situation.

Keeping up with recommended exams and diagnostics can greatly improve your pet's cardiac health and quality of life. Our staff can answer any questions that you may have regarding the care of your pet's heart.

www.cvcavets.com • Like us on Facebook Twitter Instagram @cvcavets

 **CVCA**
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Texas

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- Collaborate with primary care veterinarians
- Availability for same day urgent cases
- Over 99% of our clients would recommend us
- Caring for over 21,000 patients per year
- 24/7 availability by phone for emergencies



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Visit our website for location information



CVCA Appointment Card - Texas VCA

CVCA Appointment Card - Texas AVESC

Magnet

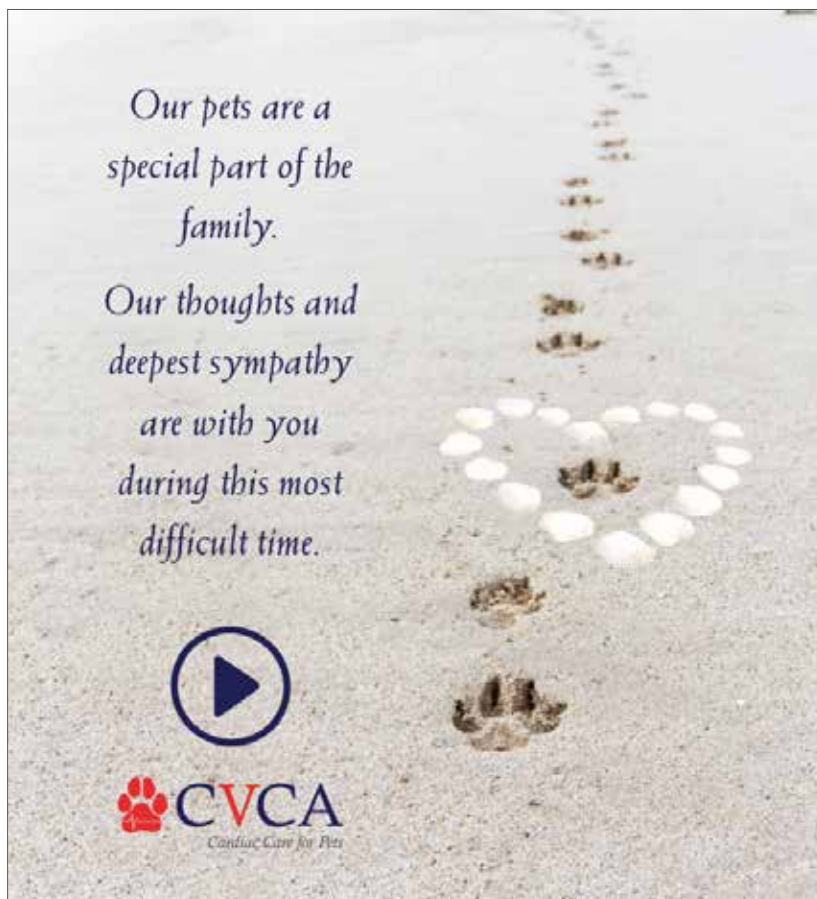
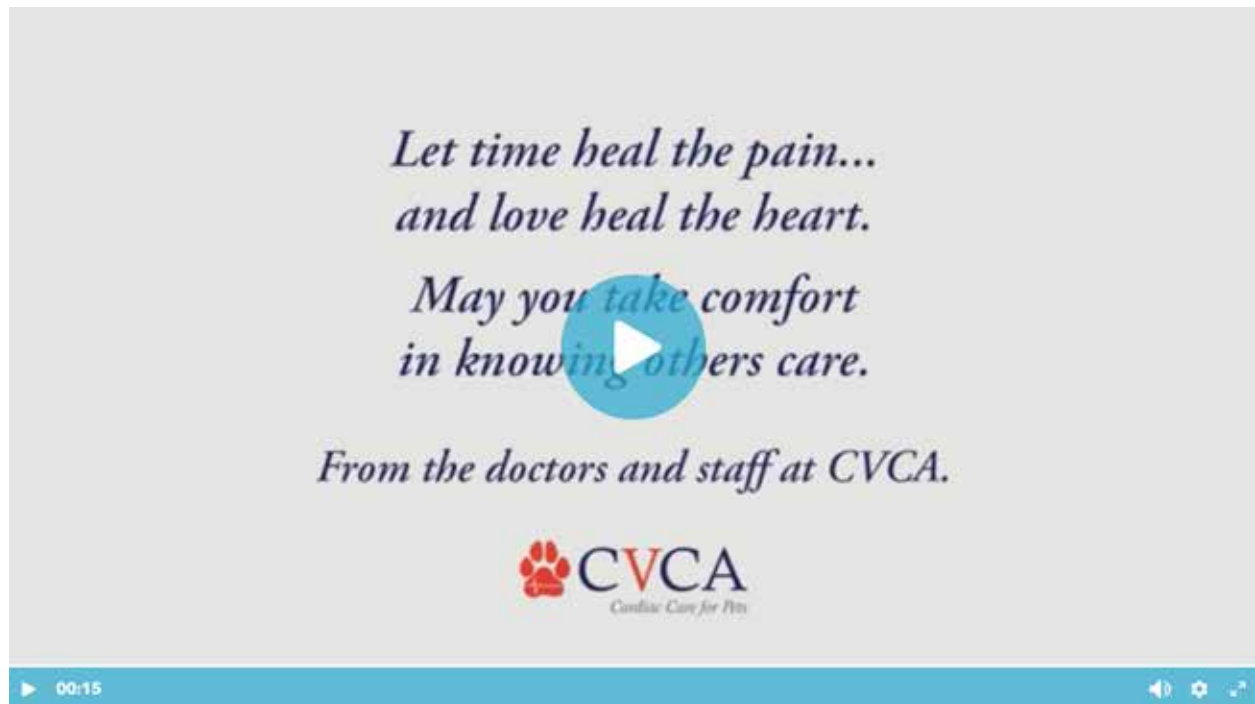
Appointment Reminder Card

Thank You Email Graphic



Sympathy Video - Option 1

Sympathy Email - Option 1



Sympathy Video - Option 2

Sympathy Email - Option 2



Sympathy Video - Option 3

Sympathy Email - Option 3



- 2021 Calendar - Printable
- 2021 Calendar
- 2021 Calendar Social Post

Complimentary 
2020 CVCA Calendar

THE CALENDARS INCLUDE
Winning PHOTOS FROM THE
CVCA ANNUAL CALENDAR CONTEST,
THEME: "FUNNY PET PHOTOS:
YOUR PET'S FUNNIEST MOMENT!"





2020 CVCA Annual Pet Calendar Contest
Theme: "Funny Pet Photos: Your Pet's Funniest Moment!"

"Guntner loves
his tennis balls!"

2020 Calendar

HELP

 **CVCA**
Cardiac Care for Pets

2020 CVCA Annual Pet Calendar Contest
Theme: "Funny Pet Photos: Your Pet's Funniest Moment!"



Guntner

**"Guntner loves
his tennis balls!"**

Fortunately, Guntner has only had to visit CVCA once (he will return for a follow up next year), but I absolutely loved everyone! From the girls at the front desk, to the techs, to the vet, everyone was amazing. You can tell they genuinely love animals and their care is their #1 priority.

Austin, TX (SHOAL CREEK)

 **2020 Calendar**

 **CVCA**
Cardiac Care for Pets
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Annual CVCA Pet Calendar Contest
"Funny Pet Photos"

Your pet's
funniest moment!




Contest runs noon on October 8th
to midnight on October 24th.
See www.cvcavets.com/pet-calendar-contest for more information.

Sponsored by  **CVCA** Cardiac Care for Pets Like us on    @cvcavets

2020 Calendar Flyer

2020 Calendar

2020 Calendar Social Post

Complimentary 🐾 2019 CVCA Calendar

The calendars include
winning photos from the
CVCA Annual Calendar Contest,
Theme: "Favorite Pet Photo."

Help Yourself!

The climber!

2019 CVCA Annual Pet Calendar Contest
Theme: "Favorite Pet Photo"

CVCA
Cardiac Care for Pets
www.cvcavets.com

Like us

The climber!

2019 CVCA Annual Pet Calendar Contest
Theme: "Favorite Pet Photo"

Libitina

Libitina was diagnosed with HCM when she was nine months old. We love CVCA for the in-depth and personalized care they give. We always feel welcomed and like part of the CVCA family when we are there. The techs and cardiologist are always very caring and amazing with Libitina as she is a very active cat and loves to climb on their shoulders!

CVCA
Cardiac Care for Pets
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Annual CVCA Pet Calendar Contest "Favorite Pet Photo"

Your pet's best moment!

Contest runs October 9-26th. See
www.cvcavets.com/pet-calendar-contest
for more information.

Sponsored by CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets

Like us on @cvcavets

2019 Calendar Flyer

2019 Calendar

2019 Calendar Social Post



Why CVCA

Both dogs and cats hide outward signs of heart disease and typically do not appear sick until they are in a crisis situation. **Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist, before heart disease becomes symptomatic or life threatening,** are key to your pet living a longer, healthier life.

EXCELLENCE • COMPASSION • INTEGRITY

- ✿ Since 1987, largest practice of board-certified veterinary cardiologists
- ✿ We see over 21,000 patients per year
- ✿ Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
- ✿ Partnership and collaboration with primary care veterinarians for optimal outcome and care

- ✿ A full initial cardiac consultation includes:
- ✿ Patients with congestive heart failure live 75% longer when co-managed by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist and primary care veterinarian.

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VIRGINIA - Fairfax | Leesburg | Richmond | Springfield | Vienna
 MARYLAND - Annapolis | Columbia | Frederick | Gaithersburg | Rockville | Towson



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- ✿ A full initial cardiac consultation includes:
- ✿ Complete review of medical records, history, lab work, and radiographs
- ✿ Blood pressure
- ✿ Echocardiogram performed by board-certified cardiologist
- ✿ Owners accompany their pet for echocardiogram
- ✿ Accurate and immediate diagnosis
- ✿ Unlimited time for one-on-one discussion and questions during and after the consultation at no additional cost

- ✿ The majority of cardiac diseases are treated with generic medications
- ✿ Exceptional Value and Payment Flexibility
- ✿ 85% of our patients receive a cardiac workup, including treatment options and prognosis, in the range of the mid-\$600s. While the remaining patients may require additional diagnostics, almost all clients have a total cost below the mid-\$700's.
- ✿ Payment flexibility consists of multiple options to help ease some financial concerns.

STOP BY OUR BOOTH FOR TWO NEW HANDOUTS!

- Clinic Poster: 10 Signs of Heart Disease in Dogs & Cats
- Client Handout: When Your Pet Needs a Cardiologist

CVCA inside Austin Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center
 7300 Ranch Rd 2222, Bldg 5, Suite 100 • Austin, TX 78730
 P 512-745-3698 | F 512-715-0599 | E cvcanwaustin@cvcavets.com
 www.cvcavets.com • Like us on    @cvcavets
 Visit our website for location information

Katie Meier, DVM, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

Sara Beth Bordon, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)



Why CVCA

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- Payment flexibility consists of multiple options to help ease some financial concerns.

Steven Rosenthal, DVM, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

Richard Cober, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

Michael Hickey, DVM, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

STOP BY OUR EXHIBIT FOR TWO NEW HANDOUTS!

Clinic Poster:
10 Signs of Heart Disease in Dogs & Cats

Client Handout:
When Your Pet Needs a Cardiologist

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 Visit our website for location information



Why CVCA

Leading choice for board-certified veterinary cardiology since 1987.

We see over 21,000 patients per year.

- ✿ Collaboration with primary care veterinarians
- ✿ Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a family member or friend
- ✿ Owners accompany pet for an echocardiogram with a board-certified cardiologist

- ✿ ACVIM credentials reflect 3-5+ years of cardiac-specific training
- ✿ Patients with congestive heart failure live 75% longer when co-managed by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist and their primary care veterinarian

EXCELLENCE • COMPASSION • INTEGRITY

TWO LOCATIONS

📍 **CVCA inside Austin Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center**
 7300 Ranch Rd 2222, Bldg 5, Suite 100 • Austin, TX 78730
 P 512-745-3698 • cvcanwaustin@cvcavets.com

📍 **CVCA inside VCA Capital Area Veterinary Specialists**
 7958 Shoal Creek Blvd • Austin, TX 78757
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 cvcaustinshoalcreek@cvcavets.com

Katie Meier, DVM, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

Sara Beth Bordon, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

Julie Andrie, DVM, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

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Ad - AVES

Ad - KVC

Ad - MVMA

Ad - TVMA



Why CVCA

Heart disease in pets can often remain hidden until advanced stages, but with early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, your patients can live a longer, healthier life.



FULL TIME BOARD CERTIFIED CARDIOLOGIST

Sarah E. Bell, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

CVCA inside BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital
13160 Magisterial Drive • Louisville, KY 40223
P 502-410-0034 • F 502-771-6036
cvcakentucky@cvcavets.com

EXCELLENCE • COMPASSION • INTEGRITY

- We see over 24,000 patients per year
- Since 1987, largest practice of board certified veterinary cardiologists
- Collaboration with primary care veterinarians for optimal outcome and care
- 24/7 availability by phone for emergency and primary care veterinarians
- Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
- Payment options available

- A full cardiac initial consultation includes:
 - Complete review of medical records, history, labs, and radiographs
 - Blood pressure
 - Echocardiogram by board certified cardiologist
 - Owners accompany their pet for echocardiogram
 - Accurate and immediate diagnosis
 - Ample time with each family for a comprehensive discussion on all aspects of the cardiac patient



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CVCA Locations in Kentucky, Maryland, Texas and Virginia



Why CVCA

Heart disease in pets can often remain hidden until advanced stages, but with early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, your pet can live a longer, healthier life with you and your family!

EXCELLENCE • COMPASSION • INTEGRITY

- We see over 19,000 patients per year
- Largest practice of board certified veterinary cardiologists
- Partnership and collaboration with primary care veterinarians for optimal outcome and care
- 24/7 availability for emergency and primary care veterinarians
- Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
- Flexibility in payment and payment options

- Exceptional value, a full cardiac initial consultation includes:
 - Blood pressure
 - Echocardiogram, performed by board certified cardiologist
 - Accurate and immediate diagnosis
 - Complete review of medical records, history, labs, and radiographs
 - Owners accompany their pet for echocardiogram
 - Unlimited time for one-on-one discussion and questions during and after the consultation at no additional cost



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MARYLAND - Annapolis | Columbia | Frederick | Gaithersburg | Rockville | Towson



When Pets Need a Board-Certified Cardiologist

Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist, before heart disease becomes symptomatic or life-threatening, are key to a pet living a longer, healthier life.



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Doctor Training and Experience

- Since 1987, CVCA sees more than 24,000 patients per year
- ACVIM credentials reflect 3-5+ years of cardiac-specific training
- Advanced technique for heart-specific ultrasound resulting in higher accuracy
- Trained in medications and potential drug interactions

Pet Owner Benefits

- Peace of mind knowing more than 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
- Owners accompany pet during full cardiac workup, including echocardiogram, by a board-certified cardiologist
- Immediate and accurate diagnosis and treatment plan

Collaboration with Primary Care Veterinarians

- Promote follow-up visits with primary care veterinarian
- Provide a detailed client report
- Work with primary care veterinarian for interpretation of future lab work, x-rays, ECGs, etc.
- Patients with congestive heart failure live 75% longer when co-managed by a board-certified cardiologist and their primary care veterinarian.

Accessibility and Availability

- Availability for same-day urgent cases
- 24/7 phone support availability for emergency and primary care veterinarians

Breed Only OFA Clinic on Friday, March 13th
Echocardiograms and Auscultations Available
Cash Only • Walk-ins Only
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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CVCA Locations in Kentucky, Maryland, Texas and Virginia



When Pets Need a Board-Certified Cardiologist

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Ad - VMA

Ad - MDVMA

Ad - Kentuckiana Cluster

Ad - Kentucky



Why CVCA

Our team of board-certified veterinary cardiologists treats more patients with heart disease than any other practice worldwide since 1987.

- Expert and Compassionate Care for Your Patients**
 - Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
 - ACVIM credentials reflect 3-5+ years of cardiac-specific training
- Pet Owner Benefits**
 - Exam and echocardiogram by board-certified cardiologist
 - Receive an accurate and immediate diagnosis
- Collaboration with Primary Care Veterinarians**
 - Provide follow up visits with primary care veterinarian
- Accessibility and Availability**
 - Availability for same day urgent cases

When Pets Needs a Board-Certified Cardiologist

Heart disease in pets can often remain hidden until advanced stages, but with early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, your patients can live a longer, healthier life.



VIEW

FULL TIME BOARD CERTIFIED CARDIOLOGIST



Sarah E. Bell, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

CVCA inside BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospital
13160 Magisterial Drive • Louisville, KY 40223
P 502-410-0034 • F 502-771-6036
cvcakentucky@cvcavets.com

- We see over 24,000 patients per year
- Since 1987, largest practice of board certified veterinary cardiologists
- Collaboration with primary care veterinarians for optimal outcome and care
- Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
- A full cardiac initial consultation includes:
 - Complete review of medical records, history, labs, and radiographs
 - Blood pressure
 - Echocardiogram by board certified cardiologist
 - Owners accompany their pet for echocardiogram
- Accurate and immediate diagnosis
- Ample time with each family for a comprehensive discussion on all aspects of the cardiac patient

www.cvcavets.com • Like us on    @cvcavets
CVCA Locations in Kentucky, Maryland, Texas and Virginia





Why CVCA

Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment by a board-certified veterinary cardiologist, before heart disease becomes symptomatic or life-threatening, are key to a pet living a longer, healthier life.

Click through to learn more about our:

Doctor Training and Experience

Pet Owner Benefits

Collaboration with Primary Care Veterinarians

Accessibility and Availability

LEARN MORE

CVCA located inside BluePearl Specialty & Emergency Pet Hospital in Louisville, KY



Why CVCA

Our team of board-certified veterinary cardiologists treats more patients with heart disease than any other practice worldwide since 1987.

- Expert and Compassionate Care for Your Patients**
 - Caring for over 24,000 patients per year
 - Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
 - ACVIM credentials reflect 3-5+ years of cardiac-specific training
- Pet Owner Benefits**
 - Exam and echocardiogram by board-certified cardiologist
 - Receive an accurate and immediate diagnosis
 - Ample time to discuss the exam in detail, including comprehensive treatment options
- Collaboration with Primary Care Veterinarians**
 - Provide follow up visits with primary care veterinarian
- Accessibility and Availability**
 - Availability for same day urgent cases

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CVCA inside Austin Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center (AVES)
7300 Ranch Rd 2222, Bldg. 5, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78730
P 512-745-3698 • F 512-713-6996
cvcamexustx@cvcavets.com

CVCA inside VCA Capital Area Veterinary Specialists
7908 Shoal Creek Blvd • Austin, TX 78757
P 512-920-6508 • F 512-858-9508
cvcacaidmshoalcrk@cvcavets.com



Katie Meier, DVM, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)



Sara Beth Borden, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)



Julie Andrie, DVM, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

CVCA inside BluePearl Specialty & Emergency Pet Hospital
13160 Magisterial Drive
Louisville, KY 40223



Sarah Clay Bell, DVM, MS, ACVIM (Cardiology)



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Online Ad - Virtual Booth

Online Ad - INVMA

Online Ad - Oldham Humane Society

Print Ad - TVMA

Online Ad - Virtual Booth



WINNER OF A FREE VETERINARY CARDIAC CONSULTATION

This certificate entitles you to a Free Veterinary Cardiac Consultation for a **DOG** or **CAT** with a board-certified cardiologist at CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets.





Redeemable at CVCA in Austin, TX



Katie Meier, DVM, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)



Sara Beth Bordelon, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)



Julie Andrie, DVM, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)

To Schedule, Contact:

CVCA inside of VCA Capital Area Veterinary Specialists
Shannah Peters, Team Leader
E: shannah.peters@cvcavets.com or cvcaustinshoalcreek@cvcavets.com
P: 512-920-6508

CVCA inside of Austin Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center
Beau Jalai, Team Leader
E: beau.jalai@cvcavets.com or cvcanwaustin@cvcavets.com
P: 512-745-3698

A consultation includes:

- Blood pressure
- Review and interpretation of medical history, radiographs and labs
- Echocardiogram with a 2 dimensional m-mode, color flow, Doppler and spectral Doppler analysis
- Owners accompany their pet for the echocardiogram with a board-certified veterinary cardiologist
- Ample time with each family for a comprehensive discussion on all aspects of the management of your cardiac patient, including:
 - › Treatment options and prognosis
 - › Anesthesia risk
 - › Diet and nutritional supplements management
 - › Activity levels
 - › Options for medication
- Additional testing, if deemed necessary by the doctor, such as blood profiles, EKG or medications will be at the owners' expense.
- 24/7 Availability by phone for emergency and primary care veterinarians
- Collaboration with Primary Care Veterinarians

Expiration Date: May 1, 2021

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When Pets Need a Board-Certified Cardiologist



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VIEW ONLINE

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Why CVCA

Heart disease in pets can often remain hidden until advanced stages, but with early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, your patients can live a longer, healthier life.

EXCELLENCE

COMPASSION

INTEGRITY

- We see over 21,000 patients per year
- Since 1987, largest practice of board certified veterinary cardiologists
- Partnership and collaboration with primary care veterinarians for optimal outcome and care
- 24/7 availability by phone for emergency and primary care veterinarians
- Over 99% of our clients would recommend us to a friend or family member
- Payment options available

- A full cardiac initial consultation includes:
 - Blood pressure
 - Complete review of medical records, history, labs, and radiographs
 - Accurate and immediate diagnosis
 - Echocardiogram, performed by board certified cardiologist
 - Owners accompany their pet for echocardiogram
 - Unlimited time for one-on-one discussion and questions during and after the consultation at no additional cost



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CVCA Locations in Kentucky, Maryland, Texas and Virginia

Certificate

Ad - When Pets Need a Board-Certified Cardiologist

Ad - Lone Star



Dear Client,

CVCA has recently teamed up with Hill's and Embark to investigate genetic factors that may lead to Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) in the most recent echocardiogram results we have, your dog may qualify.

If you are interested please find more information below and fill out [this study](#). If your pet qualifies, Embark will send a FREE which can provide breed identification, links to your dog's relative screening for over 175 genetic health risks.

Please reach out to [vet_consult@hillspet.com](#) if you have any questions regarding this study.

Thank you,

The Doctors and Staff at CVCA

[View the Flyer & Learn More](#)



Dear CVCA Client,

We wanted to let you know that effective July 1st, we will no longer be working with PaymentBanc as a deferred payment provider. It is our mission to provide the highest quality of care to our patients and we are excited to announce that we are partnering with [Scratchpay](#) to offer simple and friendly payment plan options. There are three plan types, starting as low as 0% APR and spanning 3 weeks, 12 months, or 24 months.



- Interest free Take 5 plan - break your bill into 5 easy payments
- 12- and 24-month repayment with a variable interest rate
- No prepayment penalty
- 30-second application with no hard credit check

We also accept all major credit cards, cash & personal checks, and [CareCredit](#).

[Learn more about payment options](#)



February is American Heart Month!

We are doing something extra-special this year. Introducing our American Heart Month webinar series for pet owners!

- FREE 30-minute webinars
- LIVE Q & A with board-certified cardiologists
- Don't miss out!



Tuesday, February 2, 2021
7:00 - 8:00 PM ET
Heartworm Disease
Jennifer Soley, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)

[Register today!](#)



Thursday, February 18, 2021
12:30 - 1:30 PM ET
Boxers & Cardiac Disease
Katie Meier, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)

[Register today!](#)

For questions about sign-up, or webinar series, or anything else, [email us!](#)

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for contests, fun facts, and more throughout the month of February!

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CVCA locations in Kentucky, Missouri, Texas and Virginia
[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)



Dear CVCA Clients,

As an essential business during the COVID-19 pandemic, CVCA remains **Business**.

Safety remains a top priority for us and that's why we have made immediate changes with [NEW CVCA COVID-19 Client Protocol](#) for appointments.

In addition, some other changes include:

- Location hours may vary Monday-Friday, please contact the office prior to your appointment
- Some customer service representatives may work from home during 10, so there is a small chance CVCA phone calls may appear as blocked numbers for a limited time.

In addition, for our Kentucky location, we have reviewed Governor Beshear Executive Order from March 25, 2020, and addressed some potential questions and concerns below.

Louisville, KY - CVCA inside BluePearl Specialty & Emergency Pet Hospital

- Sarah Bell, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVIM (Cardiology)
- Phone: 502-410-0034
- Email: sarahbell@cvcapets.com
- <https://www.cvcapets.com/locations/louisville/>

NEW CVCA COVID-19 Client Protocol

- <https://www.cvcapets.com/covid19/>

Payment Flexibility



What Kentucky Governor Beshear's Executive Order means to pet owners?

On March 25, 2020, Kentucky Governor Beshear issued an [Executive Order](#) which requires all persons not engaged in "essential activities" to stay home; his veterinary services have been deemed an "essential" business in all four of CVCA's operations.

The Kentucky State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners [previously](#) has attempted to define patients who should continue to be seen for their cardiac evaluations and has



February is American Heart Month!

We are doing something extra-special this year. Don't miss our last webinar for pet owners!

- Important information for Pet owners
- LIVE Q & A with a board-certified veterinary cardiologist!
- Don't miss out!

Thursday, February 18, 2021
12:30 - 1:30 PM ET
Boxers & Cardiac Disease
Katie Meier, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)



[Register today!](#)

For questions about sign-up, or webinar series, or anything else, [email us!](#)

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for contests, fun facts, and more throughout the month of February!

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2020 Embark Study Email

2020 ScratchPay Announcement Email

2021 American Heart Month Webinar Email 1

2021 American Heart Month Webinar Email 2

2020 Kentucky COVID-19 Announcement Email

CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets
Published by Tim Maleic · October 7, 2020 ·

Have you voted yet? The contest is still open, so share your best pet photos for a chance to win a copy of the calendar and an Amazon gift card!

Vote Here! cvcavets.com/pet-calendar-contest



Like us on    @cvcavets

7,717 People Reached 1,252 Engagements [Boost Again](#)

Sponsored on October 7, 2020 By Tim Maleic

People Reached	5.4K	Post Engagements	1.4K
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[View Results](#)

644 17 Comments 4

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets added 10 new photos to the album: CVCA Wear Red Day 2021
Published by Kibbi Salaps · February 9 ·

From now until 2 PM ET on Tuesday, February 16th, VOTE for your favorite wear red day photo in this album by giving the best pictures a like or reaction on the individual photos in the album! Comments will not count. The top three CVCA offices get a prize, so please support your favorites!




18,688 People Reached 875 Engagements

CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets
Published by HubSpot · November 20, 2020 ·

What is Chagas Disease and how does it affect dogs? This month, we teach you about this and what to look out for in your dog.

<https://hubs.li/H0BmKRF0>

#cvcavets #vetcardiologists #cvcaheartstrong



CVCA
Cardiac Care for Pets

9,753 People Reached 445 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

5 Comments 8 Shares

CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets (Shoal Creek)
Sponsored ·

Common in Texas, a kissing bug bite can cause Chagas Disease in dogs. Learn the signs.



Just One Bite Can Put a Dog at Risk.

CVCA
Cardiac Care for Pets
www.cvcavets.com

[Learn the signs of Chagas Disease.](#)

[CVCAVETS.COM](#)
Chagas Disease in Dogs
Learn the signs. [LEARN MORE](#)

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

644 17 Comments 4

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets
Sponsored ·

It's Test Yourself Thursday! Starting today and throughout the month of February, we'll be sharing a quiz each week to ...See More



Test Yourself Thursday!

TAKE OUR QUIZ, ENTER TO WIN!

[SIGN UP](#)

CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets
Veterinarian

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Bonnie Baker ... 5 Comments 13 Shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Facebook Calendar Contest Voting Post

Facebook Wear Red Day Post

Facebook Test Yourself Thursday Quiz Post

Facebook Chagas Online Social Ad

Facebook Chagas Disease Blog Post



Instagram Specially Abled Pets Post

Instagram Vet Appreciation Post

Instagram Kolby Post

Instagram Flamingo Post

Instagram Studies Post