

Heart Disease

Heart disease is a general term used to describe many conditions affecting the heart. Most heart disease can be classified into two types: acquired or congenital. Acquired heart disease occurs with age and changes that affect the cardiovascular system. Congenital heart problems are those that are present at birth and may progress with time.

The clinical signs associated with heart disease are numerous and can be seen with many other illnesses. Some of the common symptoms include: coughing, labored breathing weight loss or a decrease in appetite. A diagnosis of heart disease is dependent on a thorough physical examination and diagnostic testing. These diagnostic tests may include: Blood pressure, Blood work, ECG, x-rays or an echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart).

Heart disease is most effectively managed when diagnosed early. Long-term health is improved with regular monitoring and rechecks. Preventative health care is very important for patients with heart disease; especially dental care. It is important to have your young pet examined frequently by a veterinarian. As an adult your pet should be seen at least once a year, more frequently if there are ongoing health concerns.

If you have any concerns about your pet's health, please contact our office to schedule an appointment.

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