

Heart health facts for pet parents!



Keeping to the beat: facts and tips about your pet's heart

We know you love your pet and want to provide them with the best care. After all, they make our homes and our hearts (of course) so much fuller! Here are just a few helpful facts and tips that will help you and your pet enjoy a happy, healthy life together.

- A dog's heart can beat over 73,000,000 times a year!
A cat's heart easily beats over 100,000,000 times yearly!
- A heart murmur is an unusual sound during a heartbeat that can be heard when listening to the heart with special equipment. 
- About 10% of all dogs have heart disease and some breeds are more prone to disease than others. Please talk to us if you have any concerns about your dog.
- Coughing, faster breathing, and slowing down on walks are common clinical signs related to cardiac disease. 
- The heart sits on a 45-degree angle between the front legs of dogs and cats, with the top or base of the heart pointing towards the head.
- Human, dog, and cat hearts are nearly identical. Slight differences exist in a few valves and the coronary vessels, or blood vessels, that supply the heart with blood and nutrients. 
- Dogs and cats very rarely suffer heart attacks.
- Most cardiac medications used for pets are human health drugs. There are only a handful of veterinary-only cardiac medications. 
- If you ever notice any strange events or episodes in your pets, a video camera can be very informative to share with your family veterinarian.
- The loudness of a heart murmur does not always correlate with the severity of disease. 
- Your veterinarian listening to the heart with a stethoscope twice yearly as part of a wellness exam is the best screening test for heart disease. Talk to us to schedule your next wellness appointment for your pet today! 
- An echocardiogram is a type of ultrasound image test. It allows veterinarians to watch the heart moving in real time to help identify potential problems and relay definitive information to pet owners.
- Congestive heart failure is a term that means the production of fluid in the body due to heart disease. This is when medications are adjusted or introduced to remove the fluid. 
- Thyroid levels, low or high, can have dramatic cardiac ramifications.