

INFORMATION ON HEART DISEASE AND BREED SUSCEPTIBILITY

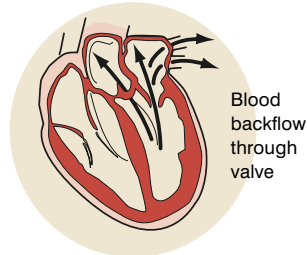


How does heart disease affect pets?

Cats and dogs are most commonly diagnosed with one of three cardiac conditions:

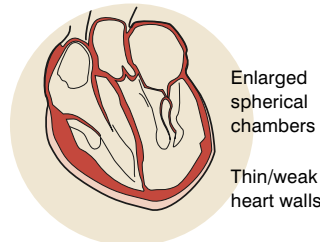
Mitral valve disease

The most common type of heart disease in dogs, an important valve becomes leaky and allows blood to flow through the heart in the wrong direction.



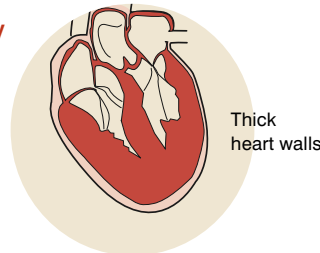
Dilated cardiomyopathy

Also common in dogs, the heart's muscle becomes stretched and weak, reducing the heart's effectiveness to pump blood.



Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

More common in cats, this disease is characterized by thickening of the heart's muscle, making it an ineffective pump.



Talk with your veterinarian

Whichever type of heart disease affects a pet, if undiagnosed or left untreated, the disease may eventually result in heart failure. Ask your veterinarian if your pet is at risk for heart disease. With early diagnosis, your cat or dog can live a healthier life.



Are certain breeds more prone to heart disease?

Dogs

There are many different dog breeds that are more prone to heart disease. These include:

Basset hound	Doberman pinscher
Beagle	German shepherd
Bernese mountain dog	Golden retriever
Bloodhound	Great Dane
Boxer	Labrador retriever
Bullmastiff	Poodle
Cavalier King Charles spaniel	Rottweiler
Chihuahua	Saint Bernard
Collie	Some spaniels
Dachshund	Some terriers
	Weimaraner

For more information about dogs and heart disease, go to yourdogsheart.com.

Cats

Heart disease affects all types of cats, including domestic shorthair and longhair varieties. However, pure breeds such as the American shorthair, Maine coon, Persian, Siamese, sphynx and ragdoll are especially prone to this disease.

Additionally, feline heart disease can strike at any age—often “silently”—so it’s important your cat gets regular checkups by your veterinarian.

Talk with your veterinarian to learn how you can take steps to safeguard the health of your pet.