



PAWS & CLAWS
ANIMAL HOSPITAL
HOLISTIC PET CENTER

Heart Disease

Your pet has been diagnosed with heart disease.

A fairly common problem with cats, heart disease tends to occur as cardiomyopathy, an issue with the heart muscle. In most dogs, where cardiomyopathy is rare, heart disease usually involves damaged heart valves, resulting in “leaks” that allow blood to flow in both directions. The leaks cause heart murmurs, which are one of the first signs of heart disease.

Upon an initial diagnosis of heart disease, one of two mistakes in treatment routinely occur: either a doctor prescribes strong cardiac medications to “prevent” heart failure from happening (even though no medication has been shown to prevent heart failure,) or he takes a wait-and-see approach, only intervening when the disease progresses to irreversible heart failure, leading to the death of the pet.

The correct holistic approach is to do further testing and evaluation at the first sign of a murmur.

If not already done, your pet may need the following testing to determine the stage of your pet’s heart disease and to determine if medication may be necessary. Keep in mind, the sooner the testing is done, the sooner your pet can be treated using only natural therapies without the need of conventional medications. Please note that some treatment will be started today to help your pet on its way to recovery while we are awaiting results of additional testing.

Chest Radiographs (X-rays) – These are done to evaluate the size of your pet’s heart and to look for fluid in the lungs.

Electrocardiogram (EKG) – This is done to look for an abnormally slow or fast heart rate and the presence of abnormal heartbeats.

Cardiac ultrasound (Echocardiogram) – This test measures the function of your pet’s heart muscle and determines how effectively the heart is moving blood to the rest of your pet’s body.

Blood Profile/ Urinalysis – These tests are done to see if another disease is present which might be affecting your pet’s heart, or to see if organ damage has already occurred from your pet’s current heart disease.

In order to prevent further damage to your pet’s heart and other organs please schedule your pet’s cardiac evaluation within the next one to two weeks, if an evaluation has not already been completed today.