

“Don’t go Breaking my Heart:” Heart Disease and the Veterinary Nurse’s Role

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Abstract:

Cardiac disease occurs in many veterinary patients. This presentation highlights basic cardiac anatomy, heart murmurs, common cardiac disease in canines and felines, and proper care both in hospital and at home. Common diseases include Myxomatous Mitral Disease, Dilated Cardiomyopathy, Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, Patent Ductus Arteriosus, Pulmonic Stenosis, and Congestive Heart Failure. Each disease will discuss the origin and what causes these diseases, clinical signs, diagnostic plans, and treatment options. The prevalence of these disease requires further evaluation and close monitoring throughout treatment. The veterinary nurse plays an important role in the care of these patients so it is important to understand these common diseases.

Keywords: Cardiac disease; Anatomy; Murmurs; Cardiomyopathy; CHF; Congenital Defects

- Introduction: Outline and Presentation Topics
- Cardiac Anatomy:
 - Slide 1:
 - Purpose of the heart
 - Chambers of the heart and their purposes
 - Slide 2:
 - Radiography: Cardiac Silhouette
 - Apex vs. Base
 - Slide 3:
 - Cardiac Inner Structure
 - Slide 4:
 - Right Sided Anatomy
 - RA, tricuspid valve, RV
 - Slide 5:
 - Left Sided Anatomy
 - LA, Mitral Valve, LV
 - Blood flow
- Heart Murmurs:
 - Slide 6:
 - What is a murmur?
 - Slide 7:
 - Normal heart sounds
 - Slide 8:
 - Murmurs: Grading Criteria

- Slide 9:
 - Grading Murmurs
- Diagnostics:
 - Slide 10:
 - History and Physical Exam
 - Slide 11:
 - Auscultation: Apical vs. Basilar
 - Slide 12:
 - Radiography
 - Bloodwork
 - Slide 13:
 - EKGS
 - Echography
- Common Cardiac Disease
 - Slide 14: Myxomatous Mitral Valve Degeneration(MMVD)
 - What is the disease
 - Causes
 - High Risk Patients
 - Diagnostics
 - Treatment
 - Slide 15: Dilated Cardiomyopathy(DCM)
 - Causes
 - Clinical Signs
 - High Risk Patients
 - Diagnostics
 - Slide 16: DCM continued:
 - Treatment
 - Prognosis
 - Echo images
 - Clinical Sign videos/pictures
 - Slide 17: Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy(HCM)
 - Causes
 - Clinical Signs
 - High Risk Patients
 - Diagnostics
 - Treatment
 - Slide 18: Congestive Heart Failure(CHF)
 - Causes
 - Clinical Signs
 - Diagnostics
 - Slide 19: CHF continued
 - Chronic Treatment
 - Acute Treatment

- Slide 20: Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA)
 - Causes:
 - High Risk Patients
 - Diagnostics
- Slide 21: PDA continued
 - Treatment
 - Interventional vs. Surgical Ligation
- Slide 22: Pulmonic Stenosis (PS)
 - Causes:
 - High Risk Patients
 - Diagnostics
- Slide 23: PS continued
 - Treatment
 - Medical Therapy vs. Balloon Valvuloplasty
- Caring for the Cardiac Patient
 - Slide 24: In Patient Care
 - Lasix Treatment
 - Oxygen Therapy
 - Telemetry
 - Blood Pressure Checks
 - Slide 25: Out Patient Care
 - Medical Therapy
 - Monitor respiratory rate and effort
 - Sleeping Respiratory Rate
 - Vet/Client Relationship
- Client Information
- Take Home Points
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