

HEART CONDITIONS IN LARGE DOG BREEDS

- Types of Heart Conditions
- Basic Information
- Heart Murmurs
- Warning Signs and Treatment Options

Types of Heart Conditions

There are three categories of heart diseases used by veterinarians: hereditary, congenital, and acquired.

Hereditary heart diseases are passed down by parents, are present at birth, and the risk can be increased because of other conditions such as obesity.

Congenital heart diseases are not passed down by parents, but are present at birth. Congenital heart diseases may be caused by genetic defects, environmental factors, infection, or poor maternal nutrition.

Acquired heart diseases are not present at birth, but develop throughout your dog's life.



Basic Information

- There are many different types of heart conditions that can affect your dog
- Canine heart conditions can progress into Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
- Specific heart conditions are difficult to diagnose in dogs



By: Katherine Berry
Girl Scout Troop 41706
Omaha, Nebraska



Heart Murmurs

If your dog has a heart disease, it can affect the way the heart beats. If it is unusually fast or slow, this may be due to heart disease.

Your vet may listen for a heart murmur if your dog is suspected of having a heart disease. A heart murmur can be heard using a stethoscope. Hearing a heart murmur may mean that blood is not flowing smoothly through your dog's heart. Hearing a murmur does not show the cause of the murmur so additional tests may be done.

Warning Signs and Treatment Options

Warning Signs that your pet may have a heart condition:

- Less energy than normal
- Weight loss
- Cough
- Faster/difficult breathing
- Collapsing or fainting
- Swollen abdomen

Treatment options cannot cure the underlying cause of heart disease, but medications are available to help the heart function more effectively.

Your veterinarian may do an ultrasound of the heart, a blood test, or an ECG to confirm the diagnosis and best treatments.

Sources

“Congenital Heart Diseases: Part I - WSAVA2002 - Vin.”

<https://www.vin.com/apputil/content/defaultadv1.aspx?id=3846139&pid=11147>

Heart Disease in Large Breed Dogs.
azureedge.net

Mattprice. “Common Heart Diseases in Pets.” Knutsford Veterinary Surgery,
<https://knutsfordvetsurgery.co.uk/common-heart-diseases-in-pets/>

