

ACE inhibitor: A class of drugs that helps relax blood vessels and makes it easier for the heart to pump blood.

American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Stages: ACVIM (Veterinary Scientific body) classifies myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) in dogs into four stages, A through D, based on severity and progression.

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF): CHF is a condition where the heart muscle weakens or becomes inefficient, leading to an inability to pump sufficient blood throughout the body. Fluid can build up in the lungs, abdomen and other organs as a result. Once in failure, dogs can no longer compensate for the progressively ineffective heart, leading to a poorer quality of life and, without intervention, a poor prognosis.

Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM): More common in large-breed dogs, DCM is a heart condition where the heart muscles are weakened and cannot contract with as much force as normal.

Echocardiogram: This diagnostic test uses sound waves to create pictures of the heart. It can show blood flow through the heart and heart valves.

Electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG): This is a diagnostic test to check the heartbeat. It records the electrical signals in the heart to check for abnormal rhythms.

Heart disease: This is a general term that includes any condition that affects the structure or function of the heart.

Inodilator: A class of drugs that helps the heart pump more strongly and relaxes blood vessels to improve blood flow. (Note: VETMEDIN is an inodilator as it performs these dual therapeutic functions.)

Murmur: Murmurs are unique heart sounds produced when abnormal blood flow creates turbulence and is loud enough to hear with a stethoscope.

Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease (MMVD): Common in small-breed dogs, MMVD is a degeneration of the mitral valves (the valves on the left side of the heart), which causes the valves to thicken and distort. This makes it harder for the heart to pump blood.

Radiographs (X-rays): Images that help veterinarians see the shape and size of the heart and lungs.

Resting respiratory rate (RRR): The number of breaths per minute while your dog is asleep.