

**Cardiovascular Disorders**

DIETARY MANAGEMENT OF MYXOMATOUS MITRAL VALVE DISEASE (MMVD)



Myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) is the most common heart disease in dogs. Current nutritional guidelines focus on recommendations for dogs *after* they show evidence of cardiac changes. But new research demonstrates that a Cardiac Protection Blend (CPB) of nutrients can help improve heart function and slow disease progression in dogs with early stage MMVD—*before* dogs show signs of heart failure.

Key Messages

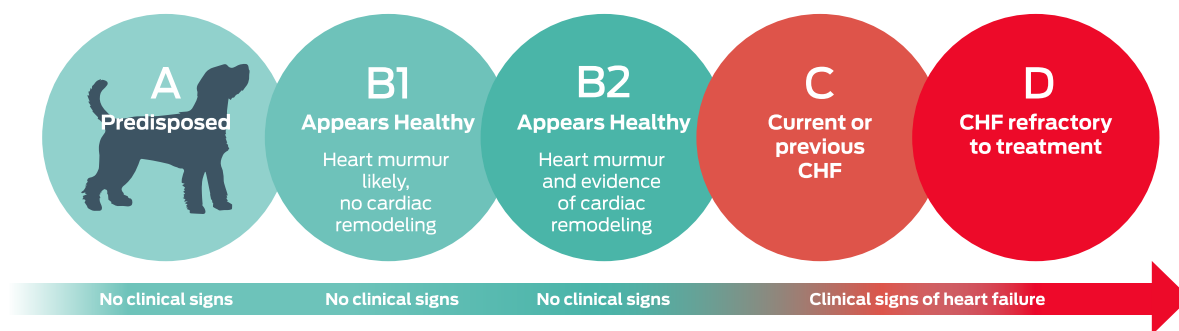
- Myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) is the most common cause of acquired canine heart disease.¹⁻³
 - In North America, MMVD accounts for approximately 75% of canine heart disease.¹
 - Most affected dogs are older, small breed dogs weighing less than 20 kg, although MMVD can also occur in larger dogs.^{1,4}
- Dogs with MMVD appear healthy until they reach later stages of disease. But, internally, the heart is changing even in this preclinical time.¹

(continued on next page)

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

About 1 in 10 dogs has heart disease, and the characteristic left apical heart murmur in dogs with MMVD is typically recognized during a routine veterinary exam.¹

ACVIM stages of MMVD in dogs



- MMVD is a slowly progressive disease, but the rate of progression is hard to predict.¹
- Approximately 30% of dogs with MMVD progress to advanced disease.^{2,5}
- Current nutritional recommendations focus mainly on managing signs after congestive heart failure occurs, but new research shows that a Cardiac Protection Blend (CPB) of nutrients can help improve heart function and slow disease progression in dogs with early stage MMVD.^{1,6,7}
 - A 6-month dietary study showed clinical benefits in key cardiac measures in dogs with early stage MMVD that were fed CPB in a complete and balanced diet.⁶
 - More than 1/3 of dogs on the control diet progressed from B1 to B2; there was no progression in the CPB-fed dogs.
 - Left atrial size increased by an average 10% in control-fed dogs; CPB-fed dogs had an average 3% decrease in left atrial size.
 - Severity of mitral regurgitation worsened in 25% of control-fed dogs, but in CPB dogs, only 10% worsened and 30% improved.
 - Metabolomics research showed that clinical benefits in dogs fed the CPB were associated with positive changes at the molecular level.^{7,8}

References

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