

# Cardiac Emergencies in Dogs

Sarah M. Cavanaugh, DVM, MSc, DACVIM reviews three common causes of canine cardiac emergencies: congestive heart failure, arrhythmias, and pericardial effusion.

## Speaker Bio:

Sarah M. Cavanaugh (Scruggs), DVM, MSc, DACVIM (Cardiology), is an assistant professor at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. After graduation in 2005, Dr. Cavanaugh completed her internship at the AMC and her residency & MSc at Colorado State University. Prior to joining the faculty at RUSVM in 2017, Dr. Cavanaugh was in private referral practice in Colorado and Florida. Dr. Cavanaugh's current research interests include degenerative mitral valve disease, nutrition & cardiovascular disease, and tablet-based educational tools.

## Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize steps in diagnosing and treating congestive heart failure in dogs, factoring in the differences between left and right sided CHF
2. Differentiate between common arrhythmias in dogs, with attention to diagnosis and treatment of each
3. Recall elements of the diagnosis and treatment of pericardial effusion in dogs
4. Manage client expectations regarding cost, prognosis, and outcome

## Agenda:

- Congestive Heart Failure
  - What Causes Heart Failure?
    - Adult dogs vs. puppies
  - History & Clinical Signs
    - Left vs. right side
  - Approach & Physical Exam
    - Left vs. right side
  - Diagnosis
    - Thoracic radiographs
  - Treatment & Follow-up
    - Who needs to be hospitalized?
    - Discharge
    - At-home monitoring
  - Prognosis & Financial Considerations
- Arrhythmias
  - Atrial Fibrillation
    - ECG diagnosis
    - Treatment & follow-up
  - Ventricular Premature Complexes & V Tach
    - ECG diagnosis

- Indications for therapy
    - Treatment & follow-up
  - AV Blocks
    - Atropine response test
    - ECG diagnosis
    - Indications for therapy
    - Treatment & follow-up
  - Anesthetized Patients: Case Examples
    - ECG diagnosis
    - Indications for therapy
- Pericardial Effusion and Cardiac Tamponade
  - Causes
  - History & Clinical Signs
  - Physical Exam
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment & Follow-up
  - Prognosis & Financial Considerations