

Feline Murmurs, Gallops, & Dysrhythmias: When Should I Investigate/Refer?

Kerry Rolph, BVM&S, CertVC, PhD, FANZCVS (Feline Chapter), DipECVIM-Ca, FRCVS discusses auscultable cardiac abnormalities, addresses their significance, and gives some practical guidance on diagnostics and management.

Speaker Bio:

Kerry Rolph, BVM&S, CertVC, PhD, FANZCVS (Feline Chapter), DipECVIM-Ca, FRCVS graduated from Edinburgh University and worked in small animal practice for two years before returning to Edinburgh. She gained her certificate in Veterinary Cardiology and her PhD in 2004. She passed her Feline Medicine Australian College of Veterinary Scientists Fellowship examinations in 2010. Gaining this diploma level qualification made her eligible to apply for Specialist status with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. In 2014 Kerry gained her European diploma in Companion Animal Medicine and became a European Specialist. She then worked at a private referral hospital in Bristol for 3 years before joining Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM) in January 2019 as an associate professor. In 2020, Kerry was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify causes, possible investigations, and treatment options pertaining to murmurs, with attention to owner communication
2. Recall the potential for sudden decompensation in murmur patients, and how the safety of transportation can be increased
3. Recall the significance of gallop sounds and the potential differentials for gallops
4. Differentiate between the causes and significance of sinus arrhythmia and dysrhythmias in cats, with attention to prioritizing the subsequent approach

Agenda:

- Murmurs
 - Auscultation Tips and Tricks
 - Causes
 - Systolic vs. diastolic
 - Origin
 - Is Grade Important?
 - Clinical signs of heart disease
 - Why do they Come and Go?
 - Treatment Options
 - Investigations
 - How do I Explain this to the Owner?

- Stable vs. unstable patients
 - When Should I Investigate/Refer?
- Gallops
 - S3 vs. S4
 - Differential Diagnosis
 - Referral
 - Case Study: Spike
- Dysrhythmias
 - Sinus Arrhythmia
 - Dysrhythmia
 - Atrial Fibrillation
 - Ectopic Complexes
 - AV Block
 - My Approach