



Your pet's cardiology consultation: What to expect

Dr Katy Garven BVMS, Cert VC, MRCVS

Please ensure that your pet has been fasted for at least 8 hours prior to your appointment, but give all medications at the usual times unless otherwise directed. Your pet is allowed to drink water and, if possible, please bring a fresh urine sample from your pet.

Your initial cardiology consultation with Katy lasts 20-30 minutes. She'll discuss your concerns and your pet's history, taking time to observe and examine your pet once he or she has become accustomed to the surroundings. Following this, and in full consultation with you, one or more tests may be recommended.

- **Electrocardiography** (or ECG) assesses the heart's rhythm. Comfortable clips are attached to your pet's legs for a few minutes while the recording is made.
- **Digital radiography** (or xray) evaluates the heart and lungs. Sedation for your pet, or in some cases a general anaesthetic, may be recommended.
- **Echocardiography** (cardiac ultrasound scan) can diagnose specific heart disease and severity in a non-invasive, painless way
- **Holter monitoring** is 24 hour electrocardiography. Your pet wears the monitor while it records the ECG for up to 7 days.
- **Blood pressure measurement** - a cuff is placed on the animal's front leg or tail and inflated in the same way that human blood pressure is measured.
- **Bronchoscopy** - for pets with respiratory disease, this allows the airways to be viewed and samples to be taken for laboratory analysis. A general anaesthetic is needed.
- **Blood sampling and laboratory tests** check for other diseases and ensure that medical treatments are suitable for your pet.

You may be able to stay with your pet, or he/she may be admitted for a couple of hours depending on what is needed.

Twenty-four hour intensive care is available for very sick pets.

Most of our test results are available immediately, allowing Katy to discuss treatments and answer any questions that you might have.

Payment is respectfully requested at the time when your pet goes home. If your pet is insured, it's a good idea to bring a claim form with you to your appointment so we can process this quickly. We do not charge for completing claim forms.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to call us on 01563 522701 – we're here to help.