



Puppy & Kitten Heart Murmur Clinic Client Guide

Heart murmurs in puppies and kittens are very common. Most of the time they are nothing to worry about; however, sometimes they are a clue that serious heart disease is present.

We recommend a heart scan (ultrasound examination of the heart) for any puppy with a murmur grade of 3/6 or louder or a kitten with a murmur. Left undiagnosed and untreated, heart disease can lead to heart failure, collapse episodes or even sudden death. The earlier in life a heart problem is diagnosed, the better chance the puppy or kitten has for successful treatment, or even cure.

What does it cost?

£300

Why SCVS?

SCVS has one of the largest and most experienced cardiology teams in the UK. If a heart problem is diagnosed, then we will be able to offer the best treatment possible. Furthermore, if a serious heart problem is identified that requires keyhole surgery, then we discount the cost of the scan from the surgery fees.

Suitable patients

- Puppies up to an age of 12 months
- Kitten with a murmur
- No clinical signs, other than heart murmur on auscultation.

What does it involve?

Most heart diseases in puppies and kittens can be diagnosed with a heart scan. This examination is nearly always performed without the need for sedation or anaesthetic and is completely non-invasive and safe.

How is the puppy/kitten heart murmur clinic different from a normal cardiology referral?

Referral for a specialist opinion can be expensive and difficult to afford in the current economic climate. We would still like to help as many puppies/kittens as possible and have therefore introduced the puppy/kitten

heart murmur clinic which offers a complete heart scan at a more affordable cost. By accepting only puppies/kittens without any clinical problems in this clinic, there is no need for a specific consultation, which allows us to offer this service at lower cost. If abnormalities are found, then we will of course discuss them with you in more detail.

SCVS is a leading veterinary cardiology centre in the UK. With one of the largest team of specialist cardiologists in the country, the team work together to achieve the very best outcomes for pets.



Booking

Should you wish to book a place for the puppy/kitten heart murmur clinic, please ask your local vet to arrange a referral.

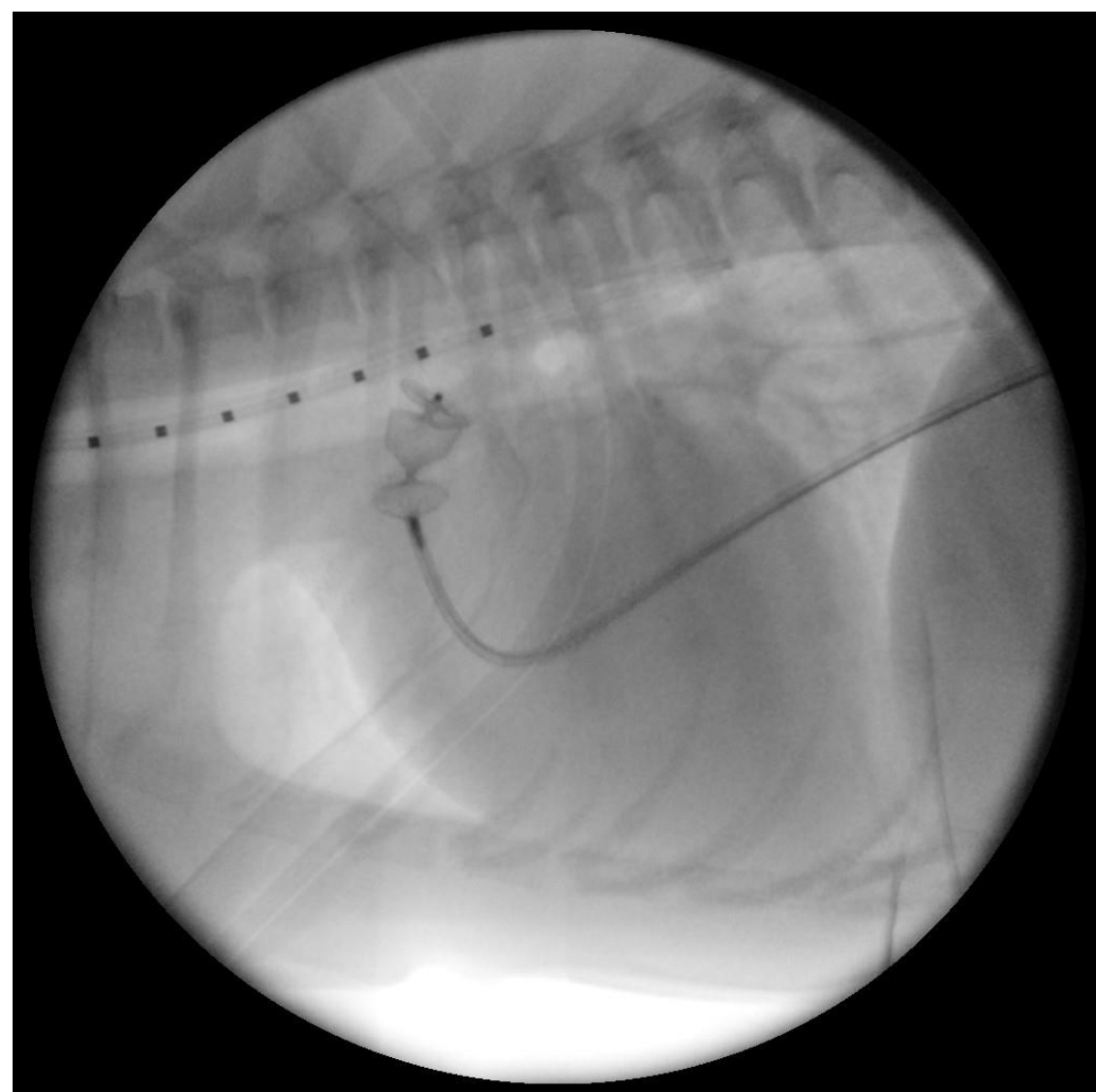


Minimally Invasive Heart Surgery

PDA closure and Pulmonic are the most common congenital cardiac abnormalities which benefit from minimal invasive cardiac intervention.

PDA

The PDA is a persistent connection between Aorta and Pulmonary Artery which has not closed after birth. Untreated it will result in left sided heart failure in many patients.

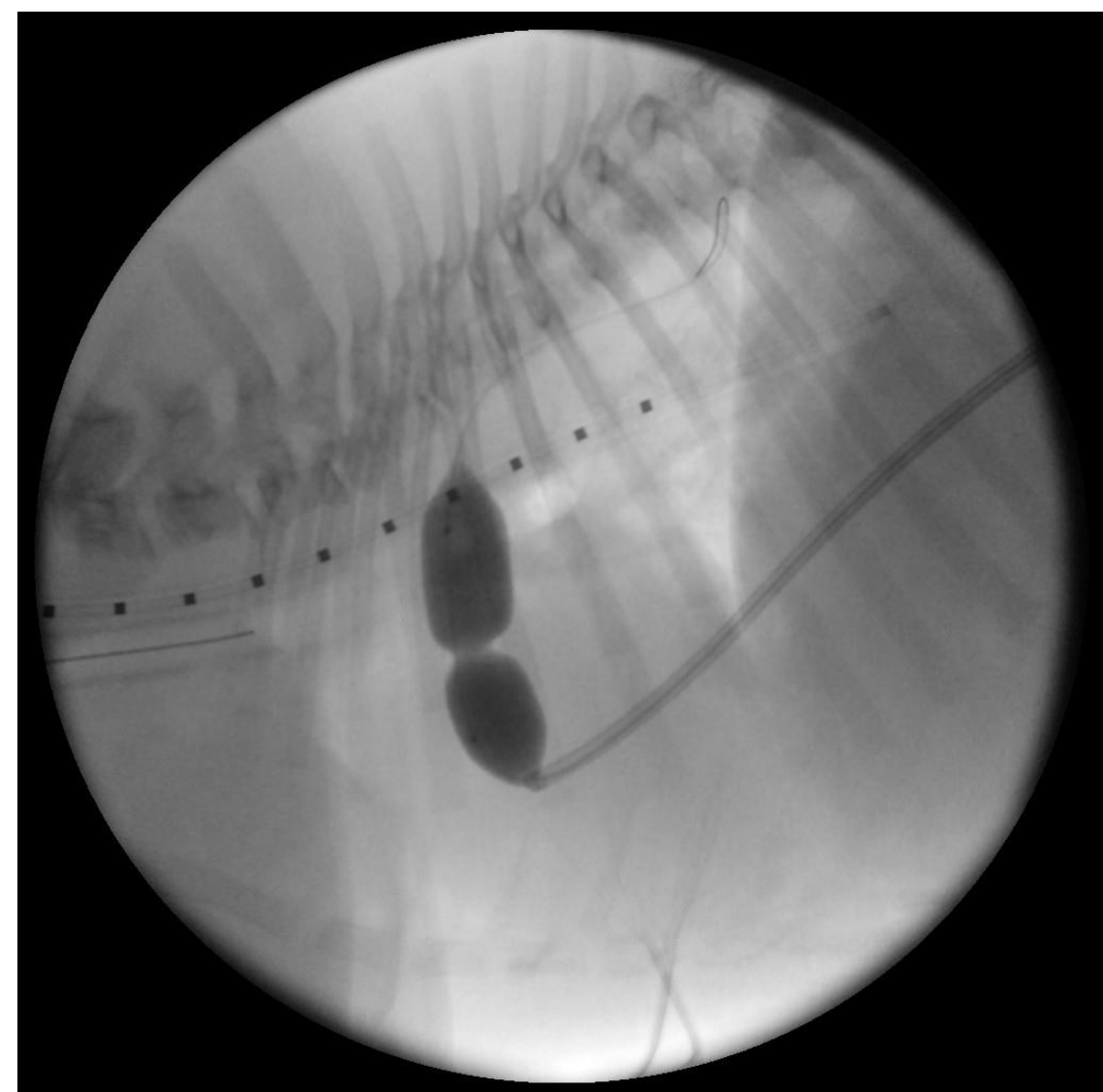


The team at SCVS has pioneered a novel keyhole method for PDA closure in the UK, which allows us to close PDAs in patients as small as 1kg and preserve the femoral artery, which is not possible with the more routinely used ACDO technique.

The recovery time is very short and patients usually can be discharged the following day.

Pulmonic Stenosis

Patients with marked pulmonic stenosis usually present with a systolic heart murmur. Untreated, the pressure in the right ventricle can be very high, which results in myocardial damage and subsequently arrhythmias and/or heart failure. Patients will develop syncope, exercise intolerance and/or ascites over time or they can suffer from sudden cardiac death.



Performing a balloon valvuloplasty will dramatically improve the function of the abnormal valve, improving life expectancy and alleviating clinical signs. At SCVS, we are using exclusively high quality high pressure balloons for these procedures to achieve the best possible outcome.