

# MITRAL VALVE SCREENING CLINIC



- Recommendations for the Management of Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease (MMVD) in Dogs has changed.
- The EPIC study showed pimobendan delays onset of Congestive Heart Failure by *15 months* in asymptomatic dogs that have MMVD and cardiomegaly.
- The SCVS Mitral Valve Screening Clinic will help you identify dogs that will benefit from early pimobendan treatment.
- **Only £200!**

## Eligible Patients:

- Dog less than 25kg
- 3 years or older
- Suspected preclinical MMVD
- Heart murmur  $\geq 3/6$
- ASYMPTOMATIC

## The report you get:

- Definitive diagnosis and ACVIM disease staging performed by a cardiology specialist
- Recommendations regarding need for treatment (or not) with advice for future management

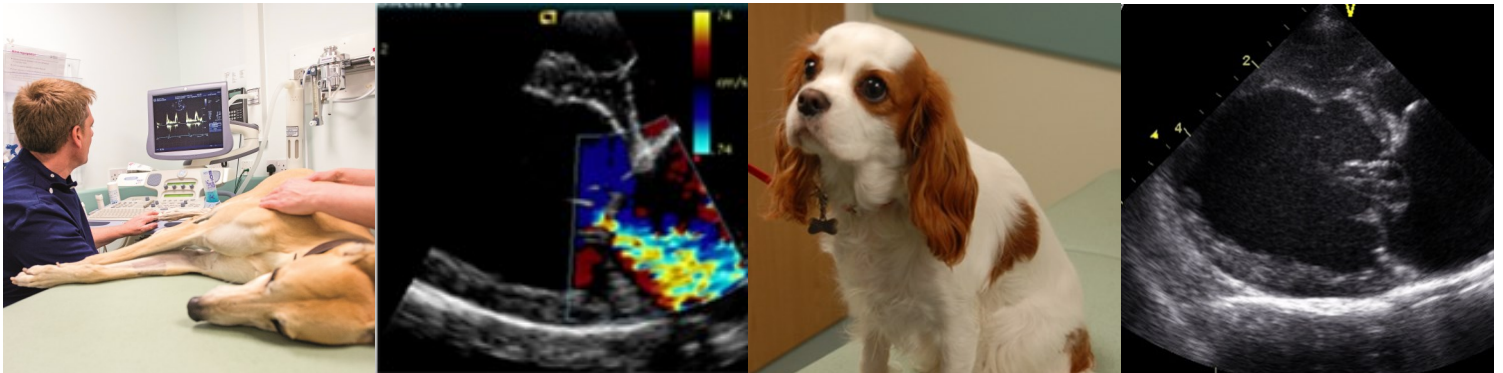
## What the mitral clinic does

### NOT provide:

- Workup of cases exhibiting clinical symptoms of MMVD
- Consultation for the client with a cardiologist
- On-going case advice

## What does it cost?

- £200 for first assessment
- £150 for recheck



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# New Cardiology Service at SCVS

## Mitral Valve Screening clinic



### Reason why we are offering this clinic

A recently published study (EPIC\*) has shown that treatment with pimobendan prolongs the asymptomatic period by approximately 15 months in dogs with myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) and heart chamber enlargement.

### Why not start all dogs with a heart murmur on pimobendan?

The length of the asymptomatic period for dogs with MMVD, (from first recognition of a murmur to onset of heart failure), is typically 4-6 years. For some dogs this period is even longer, while others may never develop signs of heart failure. We know that the heart begins to remodel more rapidly in the six months preceding onset of congestive heart failure signs, resulting in progressive heart chamber enlargement. This is the time during which treatment with pimobendan has been shown to be beneficial. There is currently no evidence to support the use of pimobendan before we see evidence of heart enlargement

### Why screen

Given the long pre-clinical course of this disease and acknowledging the fact that a significant number of dogs with MMVD never develop clinical signs, it is important to identify the dogs that will benefit from treatment. Aside from good clinical practice, pimobendan is an expensive medication and a significant financial investment for the dog owner.

### Why echocardiography

Although the stethoscope is a sensitive tool for the detection of mitral valve regurgitation, murmur grade does not reliably correlate with stage of disease (eccentrically positioned mitral regurgitation jets can produce loud murmurs with minimal haemodynamic effect for example) and will not identify dogs with cardiomegaly. Chest radiographs can be useful to identify cardiomegaly but measures of heart size are influenced by multiple factors, including breed, patient positioning and the phase of the cardiac or respiratory cycle during which the radiograph was acquired.

Echocardiographic examination has the benefit of being able to confirm the diagnosis of MMVD, whilst providing a reliable method with which to identify dogs that are similar to those enrolled in the EPIC study; i.e. the dogs that will benefit from treatment with pimobendan.

### What does it cost?

The EPIC study is an important step forward in the management of this very common and often life-threatening disease. For the first time we have evidence that there is a genuine opportunity to extend the asymptomatic period for dogs with MMVD and cardiomegaly.

We recognise that the cost\* of consultation and cardiac investigation with a cardiology specialist may be prohibitive for some owners. We have created the mitral valve screening clinic as we are keen to extend our services to as wide a number of dogs as possible. The clinic will give clients access to specialist echocardiographic examinations at a more affordable cost. For £200 (including VAT), eligible dogs will receive an echocardiographic assessment and the referring vet will be sent a written report, including advice about management and treatment recommendations. To facilitate cost-effective screening of dogs with presumed preclinical mitral valve disease, the echocardiographic examination will be performed without consultation and will be targeted at essential views and the measurements required to stage disease severity. If echocardiographic screening examination reveals a cardiac problem unrelated to MMVD, we will recommend an appointment for consultation and further cardiac investigation with a cardiologist through our routine referral service.

\* Effect of Pimobendan in Dogs with Preclinical Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease and Cardiomegaly: The EPIC Study—A Randomized Clinical Trial. Boswood et al, JVIM 2016

\*\*typically £500-1000



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