

Caring for your Pet with Cardiac Disease



PATIENT DETAILS

Name of patient:

Heart problems can be treated but not made better, so your pet will be on medications lifelong. All heart problems tend to gradually worsen over time, so we may need to put your pet on more or different medications as their condition progresses.

Listed below are some ways you can help manage your pets condition:

- ♥ Never let your pet run out of medication or they could suddenly become very poorly.
- ♥ Avoid excitement as this increases the strain on the heart.
- ♥ Avoid excessive exercise for the same reason. Decide how much your pet can manage and stick to that amount.
- ♥ Special cardiac diets with less salt help some types of heart disease. Please discuss with the vet if this would be beneficial for your pets condition.
- ♥ Keep checking how your pet is doing at home and let us know if things change.

Monitoring at home is the best way for us to know how your pets heart condition is doing. Here are some ways you can do this:

Knowing your pets breathing rate is very helpful to decide how well the treatment is working. You can do this once a week by, counting breaths (a breath in and out counts as one breath) per minute yourself, while your pet is resting. There is an app called 'Cardalis' which has been designed to make monitoring your pets breathing rate while they are asleep very easy for you to do at home. Anything more than 30 breaths per minute at each weekly check over a 3 week period is a cause for concern. The app gives you the option of emailing the results over to us, so if the results are over 30 breaths per minute please forward the results from the app over to us by email to admin@abbeyvetcentregrimsby.co.uk

Take note of how long it takes for you to get from one lamp post for example to another. If you do the same walk every day with your dog, in theory it should take the same length of time to travel the same distance if the level of health in your dog is maintained. Using lamp posts on a walk is a good way to monitor this as the distance between them will always be the same.

Watching out for worsening such as wheezing or coughing. These may show that we need to change medication doses or the whole treatment plan. Please let us know if these happen.

Some medications that may be used to treat your pet:

Frusemide/Furosemide/Frusol:

Furosemide may be prescribed to get rid of extra fluid in the lungs or abdomen. If your pets heart is not beating well, their blood pressure may become low and fluid may accumulate in their lungs. This medication causes increased drinking and urination so you may need to give your pet more opportunity to go out for a wee.

Cardisure

Cardisure helps the heart beat more effectively by increasing strength of the heart contractions. It also helps the heart valves to leak less.

Cardalis

Cardalis works by decreasing the overall blood volume, reducing the effort needed for the heart to pump blood and thereby improving its function. It also helps to protect the kidneys from damage caused by the heart not working properly.

We always need to check how well your pet is responding to treatment, so we will want to resee your pet 2 weeks after initial diagnosis to see how you and your pet are getting on with the new routine and medications. When we next need to see your pet depends on how they are doing, but we always need to see you at least every 6 months to abide by the legal requirements for the prescribing of medications to pets.

Contact Information

Telephone (24 hours Emergency Line): 01472 347054
Telephone (Office hours): 01472 362821
Telephone (Office hours): 01472 240422

FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT

Please let us know if you are unable to attend the above appointment and we will arrange an alternative day/time.