

Heart disease affects an estimated 15% of dogs in the UK. However, with modern treatment, the outlook for dogs with heart failure is much more optimistic than it once was.

Heart Disease

A number of factors may contribute to heart and circulatory disease, including breed, old age and obesity.

How a healthy heart works

Did you know that during a dog's life its heart will beat more than 500 million times? It's an incredibly powerful muscle that even at rest is working harder than a dog's leg muscles when at full sprint!

Progression of heart disease

The two common types of heart disease in dogs are leaking heart valves or an inability of the heart muscle to pump effectively. These eventually lead to congestive heart failure (CHF) as the heart struggles to compensate.

As with most illnesses, early detection and treatment of heart failure can significantly improve your dog's quality of life and life expectancy.

The first signs of heart failure

The first warning signs of heart failure may include:

the signs...

- Coughing
- Lack of energy and a reluctance to exercise
- Lethargy
- Difficulty in breathing
- Weight loss
- Enlarged abdomen

Treatment of heart failure

Your vet may prescribe medicine to support your pet's diseased heart and slow the progression of the disease. Exercise is important in helping circulation, but stay well within your dog's exercise limits or ability.

