

CARDIOLOGY

What should I expect when my pet receives a cardiology examination?

A complete cardiology work-up includes a physical exam and history. Most pets also have the following tests:

- ECG (electrocardiogram)
- Chest x-rays, and sometimes abdominal x-rays
- Blood pressure
- Echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart)
- Laboratory tests, used to screen for other problems that affect the heart or medications used to treat heart diseases.

Additional test and treatments available:

- Holter monitors (24h continuous ECG)
- Cross-sectional imaging (CT, MRI)
- Cardiac catheterizations
- Removal of fluid from the sac around the heart, chest or abdomen
- Catheter-based procedures for patent ductus arteriosus, pulmonic stenosis, heartworm retrieval
- Pacemaker implantation for arrhythmias
- Screening of breeding dogs for congenital and acquired heart defects

The basic work-up takes several hours; some of the more involved procedures may require your pet to stay overnight or for several days. UTVMC is a teaching hospital, so you and your pet will be taken care of by our entire team, which includes senior students, interns and residents, in addition to the cardiologist on duty. No cardiac patient will leave the hospital without seeing the cardiologist.

If you have a questions about your pet's heart disease, you are welcome to call the hospital and ask for our cardiology technician/nurse, who can answer most of your questions. IF needed, one of our cardiologists will return your call.

We are available for routine appointments during the week, and we are always available for emergencies working with the UTVMC Emergency Service.