

INFORMATION SHEET for OWNERS



About your pet's referral to HeartVets

This information sheet has been designed to help you understand more about the procedure and includes a summary of what to expect and the answers to some commonly asked questions.

The afternoon before

We will admit your pet to the hospital the day before the procedure, this will give them a chance to settle in and for you to meet one of our cardiologists. During the consultation, our cardiologist will discuss the procedure, examine your pet and perform an ultrasound scan of the heart to double check everything and take the initial necessary measurements.

Your pet can have food and water as normal prior to being admitted on Tuesday afternoon. Please remember if they are on any medications or special diets, to bring them with you on the day

Morning of surgery

Your pet will be given a premedication, which has a mild sedative effect, this will allow the cardiologist to perform a final ultrasound scan of the heart to double check the measurements.

A general anaesthetic is then performed, and your pet will be prepared for surgery. This will include clipping the fur from the surgical site, the area will then be given a thorough clean to ensure they are ready for the sterile procedure. Your pet will then be taken into our fully equipped dedicated surgical theatre and the operation performed.

Once the surgery has been completed, you will be telephoned by the cardiologist to let you know how everything has gone. Your pet will be well looked after by our nursing team whilst he/she is recovering from their anaesthetic, and will be transferred to a warm padded bed to awaken. We will ensure adequate pain relief is given and once fully awake they will be offered a small amount of tummy friendly food.

On Wednesday afternoon, a follow-up ultrasound scan of the heart is performed to ensure everything is looking as it should.

Our dedicated ward nurses will closely monitor your pet for any complications such as bleeding or bruising from the surgical wound. One of the team will be in touch to arrange a suitable collection time on Thursday.

Day after surgery

When you come to collect your pet, you will have a consultation with the cardiologist to discuss the surgery performed and go through the discharge instructions. We will also provide you with a written summary, as we appreciate it can be a lot to take in, a copy of which will be sent to your own vet.

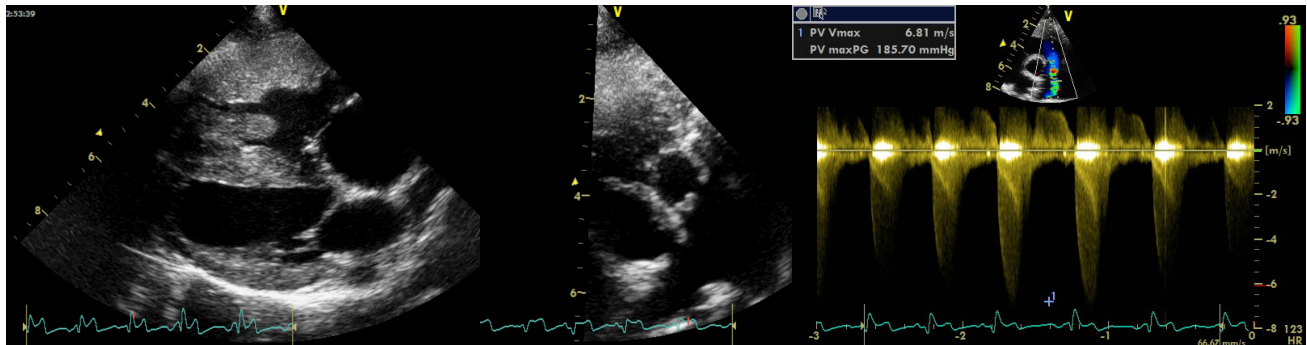
Ensuring your pet is ready for surgery

Your pet is about to undergo a sterile procedure, it is important that they are clean and don't have any skin infections (including fleas) that could potentially contaminate the surgical site or implants. If necessary, please give your pet a bath prior to your appointment.

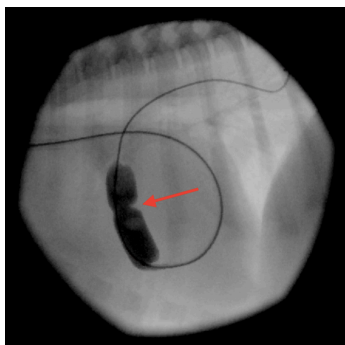
Owner Information

Balloon Catheter Dilatation of Pulmonic Stenosis

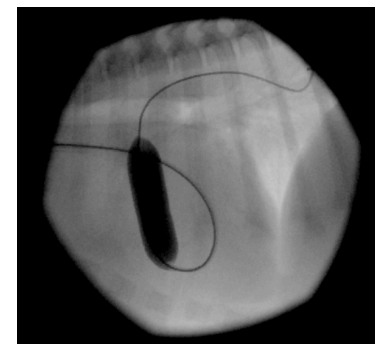
Pulmonic stenosis is a congenital heart disease where the pulmonic valve (the valve protecting the artery which takes blood to the lungs) doesn't open properly. As a result, there is a narrowing which makes it more difficult for blood to flow to the lungs. This narrowing means the heart has to push blood with more pressure which leads to enlargement and thickening of the heart chamber (right ventricle). This can lead to weakness, collapse and fluid build-up (heart failure).



Balloon dilation (also called valvuloplasty) involves passing a specially designed catheter via a vein into the heart and across the narrowed pulmonic valve. We then inflate the balloon to stretch the defective valve and open up the artery, allowing blood to flow into the artery more easily. We then deflate and remove the balloon so nothing is left inside the heart. We use dye (contrast) and pressure catheters to measure the size of the artery, degree of stenosis (narrowing) and to measure the change in pressure after stretching the valve. Sometimes we need to stretch the valve with several sizes of balloon to improve the blood flow. This is something we are very careful about, to minimise any damage to the heart.



These X-rays show the balloon in place across the narrowed valve (red arrow). Once we have fully inflated the balloon, the valve is stretched open and blood can flow much more easily to the lungs, taking the pressure off the heart. The dent in the balloon on the left image shows the tight constriction created by the narrowed valve. To see a movie of an angiogram and a balloon dilatation visit us at:



<http://www.youtube.com/user/mikemartinheartvet>

HeartVets is one of the few specialist centres in the UK to regularly perform balloon catheter operations. Thanks to the considerable experience of our team, our success rates are excellent and we expect good long-term results. Considerable experience we have a good success rate and the long-term outcome is typically good.

The success rate of this operation is good, with approximately 90% of cases showing a significant clinical improvement following surgery. Of course there are risks with this operation and sadly a small number of patients (<5 %) may not survive the procedure.

Prior to referral for balloon dilatation of pulmonic stenosis

We prefer your pet to be on beta blockers for at least two weeks prior to the procedure and continue on them until the recheck with the cardiologist, typically 3-6 months after the operation.

Before recommending balloon valvuloplasty, our cardiologists need to do a thorough ultrasound scan (echo), to check confirm the diagnosis, look for other heart defects, and make the measurements needed to help plan the balloon procedure. Sometimes there are other heart problems which stop us advising surgery so it is vital we do this examination, even if the patient has been scanned previously.

Long term management

It is important that a follow-up scan is done 3 to 6 months later, to see how the heart has changed after the operation. Typically we will then recommend further monitoring with an ultrasound scan every couple of years.

If your pet has been diagnosed with pulmonic stenosis, ask your vet to contact us to discuss options for treatment.