

vetmedin[®]

MORE LIFE TO LOVE

Give them more time
with Vetmedin[®]



MY DOG HAS BEEN PRESCRIBED VETMEDIN[®]
WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

MY VET HAS DIAGNOSED MITRAL VALVE DISEASE (MVD) WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Mitral valve disease (MVD) is the most common heart disease in dogs. The disease is encountered in all breeds, although it's most common in small and medium sized dogs from middle age.

In MVD, the valve located between the two chambers on the left side of the heart becomes thick and lumpy. This means that with every heartbeat, blood leaks through this damaged valve in the wrong direction.

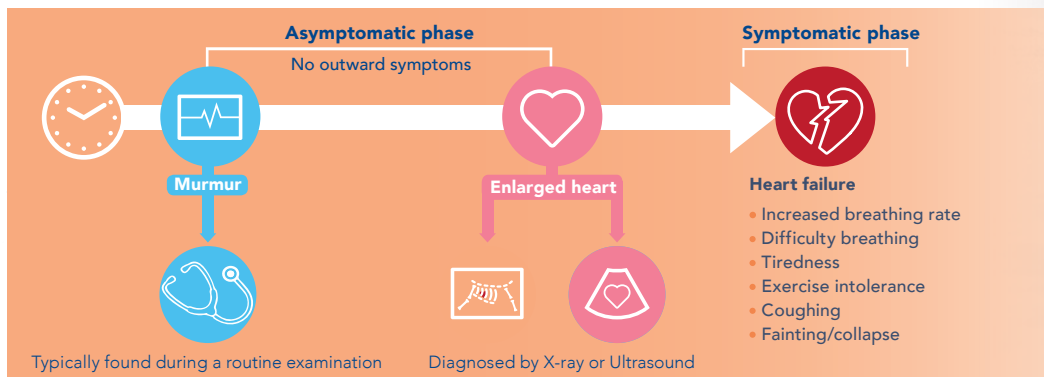
The abnormal flow of blood can be heard by the vet as a heart murmur when they listen with a stethoscope.

There are two stages of MVD: the asymptomatic stage where there are no outward signs of a problem with the heart, and the heart failure stage, where the heart can no longer cope and the dog shows symptoms of their heart disease. The asymptomatic stage is much longer than the heart failure stage.

MVD IS A PROGRESSIVE DISEASE

Although currently your dog is not showing any outward symptoms, they have a heart murmur, and MVD is a progressive disease that worsens gradually over time. As the valve becomes increasingly leaky, the heart is put under greater strain. To compensate, the heart becomes larger and pumps harder.

Eventually the heart is not able to cope with the additional strain and is unable to pump enough blood around the body. This is known as heart failure. Symptoms of heart failure can initially be quite subtle but as the disease worsens the symptoms become more severe as the heart deteriorates.



MY DOG SEEMS HAPPY AND HEALTHY. DO THEY REALLY NEED MEDICATION?

Your vet has prescribed Vetmedin® for your dog following a diagnosis of asymptomatic MVD and heart enlargement.

By giving your dog medication before they start to show symptoms of heart failure it is possible to:

- ♥ Slow down the disease progression¹
- ♥ Extend your dog's symptom-free time by delaying the onset of heart failure¹
- ♥ Improve your dog's quality and length of life¹

It's important to remember that MVD is a disease that gets worse over time. It's likely that your vet will want to see your dog for regular check-ups to monitor their heart disease.



1. Boswood A et al. Effect of Pimobendan in Dogs with Preclinical Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease and Cardiomegaly: The EPIC Study— A Randomized Clinical Trial. *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* 2016;30:1765-1779.

HOW WILL I KNOW THAT VETMEDIN® IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

For dogs in the early stages of MVD who are not yet showing any symptoms of their heart disease, it's likely that you won't notice any obvious changes after starting treatment with Vetmedin®.

Be assured Vetmedin® is at work helping to slow down your dog's heart disease and extending the time that they have without symptoms.

This is why it is so important to make sure your dog takes their prescribed dose as directed.

VETMEDIN® CAN HELP YOUR DOG WITH ASYMPTOMATIC MVD LEAD A LONGER LIFE

VETMEDIN® -
GIVING YOU
AND YOUR DOG
MORE QUALITY
TIME TOGETHER



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does Vetmedin® work?

Vetmedin® is a treatment for dogs with heart disease. It acts in two ways:

- ♥ To open up the blood vessels carrying blood to and from the heart, which reduces the work your dog's heart has to do to pump blood around their body.
- ♥ To increase the strength and efficiency of your dog's heartbeat, improving the pumping action.

How long will my dog require treatment with Vetmedin®?

For as long as your dog is responding well to treatment. This is likely to mean for the rest of his or her life. Treating your dog with Vetmedin® can help delay the onset of heart failure and keep them symptom-free for longer.

How is Vetmedin® given?

It should be given to your dog by mouth twice a day, approximately one hour before food, ideally in the morning and evening (roughly 12 hours apart).

Use the dose that your vet prescribes.

What if I miss a dose of Vetmedin®?

Don't worry. Just give the next dose at the normal time. There's no need to give a higher dose.

Does Vetmedin® have any side effects?

Normally, dogs tolerate Vetmedin® very well. It is rare for any side effects to be observed. If you are concerned about your dog for any reason, please contact your vet for advice.

How long will my dog live on Vetmedin®?

It's not easy to predict how quickly a dog will go into heart failure after being diagnosed with asymptomatic MVD or how quickly heart failure will progress in an individual dog. Your vet will monitor your dog's condition and advise you more on this.



RESTING RESPIRATORY RATE IN DOGS WITH HEART DISEASE

It's important to monitor your dog's resting respiratory rate (RRR) at home on a regular basis. Doing this will help you identify the early signs that your dog is about to move into the heart failure stage, allowing time to take action.

What is Resting Respiratory Rate (RRR)?

The RRR is the number of breaths your dog takes in a minute whilst they are relaxed, or ideally whilst sleeping.

Why should I take this measurement?

An increase in your dog's RRR over time indicates worsening heart disease. Measuring your dog's RRR regularly/frequently allows for early detection of heart failure and more timely treatment. A normal RRR tends to sit in the low 20s. If it is consistently greater than 30 breaths per minute this is a strong indicator for the presence of heart failure in dogs with MVD.

HOW TO TAKE YOUR DOG'S RRR

Step 1



WAIT UNTIL
YOUR DOG
IS ASLEEP
OR FULLY
RESTED

Step 2



COUNT
1 BREATH FOR
EACH RISE OF
THE CHEST
FOR 1
MINUTE

Step 3



RECORD
YOUR RESULTS
ON THE GRAPH
OVERLEAF

When to contact your vet

An increase in RRR may suggest your dog needs a check-up. It's normal for your dog's respiratory rate to differ slightly week to week, but you should contact your vet if your dog's RRR is gradually increasing from their regular baseline level, or it increases to over 30 breaths per minute. Always seek advice from your vet if you have any concerns about your dog's condition.

RESTING RESPIRATORY RATE RECORD

First, let's establish a baseline - measure your dog's RRR every day for 1 week and record your findings in the boxes below

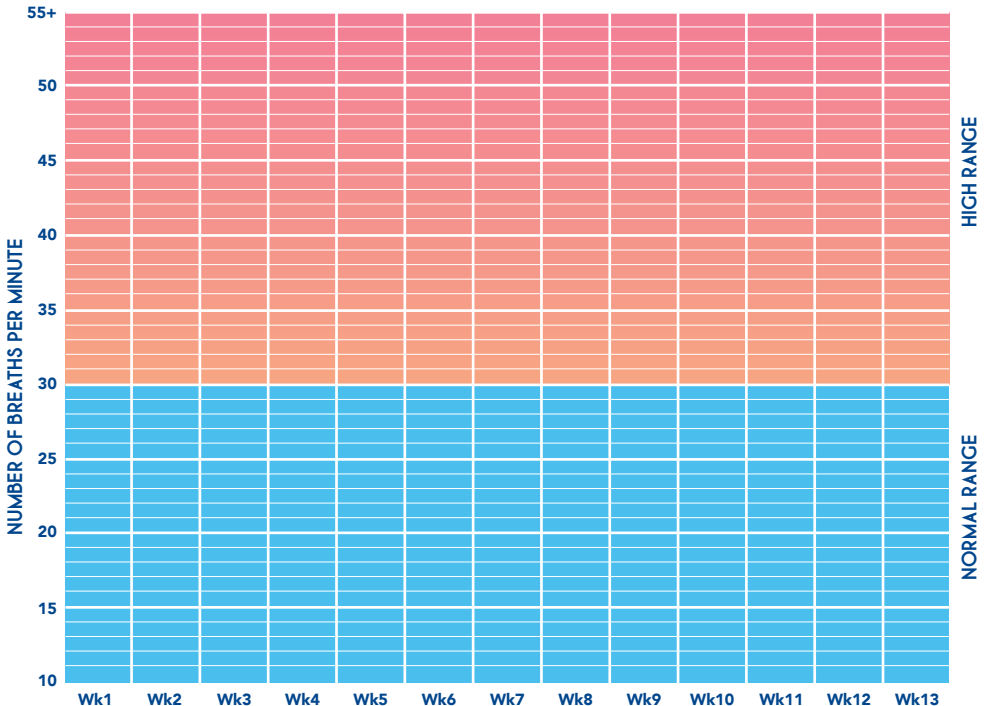
Your dog's name:

Date:

Number of breaths per minute:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

Now, let's keep track and measure once a week. Simply plot your findings on the graph below



Should you need an additional chart to monitor your dog's RRR please ask your vet.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR DOG VETMEDIN®



Your dog's name:



Their dosage is:

Vetmedin® tablets are scored and can be split into 2 halves if required



This pack should last for:

Next check-up is due on:



Vetmedin® should be given to your dog by mouth twice a day, approximately one hour before food, ideally in the morning and evening (roughly 12 hours apart).

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS SEEK ADVICE FROM YOUR VET

For more information visit www.vetmedin.co.uk

Vetmedin® contains pimobendan. UK: POM-V IE: POM. Advice should be sought from the prescriber. Further information available in the SPC or from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd., RG12 8YS, UK. Tel: 01344 746957, IE Tel: 01 291 3985. Email: vetenquiries@boehringer-ingelheim.com. Vetmedin® is a registered trademark of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH, used under licence. ©2023 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd. All rights reserved. Date of preparation: May 2023. UK-CAN-0042-2023. Use medicines responsibly.