



## YOUR PET'S CARDIOLOGY REFERRAL

### Who are we?

We provide a friendly, caring, specialist-led veterinary cardiology referral service for dogs and cats across NW England. We use the most up-to-date and technologically advanced equipment available and can come to your vet's practice so there is not need for your pet to travel long distances to a referral centre for investigations or monitoring.

### Why does my pet need to see a cardiologist?

Your vet has requested an appointment for us to see your pet. This may be because they have detected a heart murmur, an enlarged heart, an irregular heart rhythm or because you have concerns about a problem which could be due to a heart abnormality.

We can perform specialist investigations such as diagnostic echocardiography (heart ultrasound), ECG, chest x-ray and blood pressure measurements, which allow us to establish if a heart abnormality is present and if so, its severity, and whether treatment is required.

### What happens in the appointment?

Your pet will be examined by a veterinary cardiologist. Their investigations take part in a low-stress, calm environment. In most cases, an echocardiogram is performed, which means clipping a small patch of fur from each side of their chest and then using an ultrasound to allow us to look at the structure and function of their heart. They may also have an ECG to look at the heart rhythm, which is done by sticking little pads to their feet. A blood pressure, if required, is generally done by inflating a cuff around their tail, as we find this to be minimally stressful for most of our patients.

Once we have gathered all the data we need to understand their condition, we will hold a consultation with you, either on the phone or in person, to explain our findings and our next steps. Your vet also receives a full veterinary report, detailing our findings.

### On the day

Please starve your pet on the day of their appointment. It is incredibly unusual for us to need to sedate patients for their examination but should it be required, either to make sure the procedure is not stressful for them or to make obtaining optimal images possible, them being starved means we can go ahead without delaying to another day. Rest assured that should sedation be required, heart-safe protocols are used.

### Your appointment

Please bear in mind that our service covers the whole of Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cumbria and beyond. We see a high number of emergencies as patients with heart disease can often need seeing very urgently. Whilst we do all we can to ensure your appointment doesn't have to be rearranged, please be assured that on the small number of occasions this does happen, it is always our last resort.

It is also possible on the day of your appointment for use to be unexpectedly delayed. If a degree of flexibility is not possible for you, your vet would be happy to admit your pet for part of the day and we can liaise with you by phone.