Early diagnosis and treatment can lengthen a dog’s life and keep him active.

YOUR DOG COULD BE AT RISK FOR heart disease.
YOU SHOULD KNOW: DOGS’ HEARTS ARE VULNERABLE TOO.

About heart disease.

Unfortunately, heart disease is not just a human condition. But if your dog is at risk for heart disease, do not be disheartened. With early diagnosis and treatment, you can significantly prolong and improve your dog’s life. By reading through this brochure, you can better understand heart disease and what you can do to help your dog live a more normal life.

About 10% of all dogs have heart disease.

Almost all dogs that get heart disease develop the disease as adults. Only about 5% of dogs are born with heart problems (called congenital defects). But if your dog is getting older, for instance 7 years or older, you may want to schedule a heart examination with your veterinarian.

The likelihood of heart disease increases dramatically with age.

Heart failure occurs when the heart is unable to pump enough blood.

In time, heart disease can lead to heart failure, which means the heart has to work harder to do its job, which can cause more damage to occur. But if your dog is at risk, do not lose hope.

In dogs with heart disease, the body will adapt to the condition, and it will take some time before heart failure develops. In some dogs, heart disease may not lead to heart failure. But it is important to understand your dog’s heart condition and watch for the signs of early heart failure.
THERE ARE 2 COMMON CAUSES OF HEART DISEASE IN DOGS.

**Disease of the heart valve.**

Normal heart valves open and close to ensure that blood flows through the heart in the right direction. In dogs with heart disease, the valves thicken and become uneven, so the valve cannot form a perfect seal and blood may “leak” back in the wrong direction.

Veterinarians can hear this backward blood flow with a stethoscope. The sound is called a heart murmur. It is a key sign of valve disease, which is most common in smaller breeds.

**Disease of the heart muscle.**

In another common form of heart disease, which is usually seen in larger breeds, the heart muscle becomes weak as the walls of the heart stretch and thin as the heart enlarges. Because the heart is weakened, blood is not pumped normally.
CERTAIN BREEDS ARE AT A HIGHER RISK FOR DEVELOPING HEART FAILURE.

Almost all small breeds are at risk for disease of the heart valve.

- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- Boston Terrier
- Chihuahua
- Fox Terrier
- Miniature Pinscher
- Poodle
- Pekingese
- Pomeranian
- Whippet

Disease of the heart muscle is more common in medium to large dogs.

- Great Dane
- Doberman Pinscher
- Afghan Hound
- Boxer
- Cocker Spaniel
- Dalmatian
- Irish Wolfhound
- Newfoundland
- Saint Bernard
- Scottish Deerhound

If your dog is one of these breeds, there is no need to be alarmed. But you should watch for early signs of heart failure.

Signs of heart failure.

Use this checklist to monitor the signs of heart failure in your dog. You may notice the following signs in any combination:

- COUGHING
- CHANGES IN BREATHING
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR
- LACK OF ENERGY / TIRES EASILY
- EXERCISE INTOLERANCE
- RESTLESSNESS—ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT
- CHANGES IN APPETITE

Be aware of signs mentioned above, and if you have any questions, talk to your veterinarian for more information.
Regular veterinary visits and good communication with your veterinarian will help detect heart disease earlier when it will be easier to manage.

**What your veterinarian will do.**

- **Conduct a thorough physical examination** of your dog, which will provide clues as to whether your dog has any heart-related problems.
- **Listen to your dog’s heart** with a stethoscope. This will allow your veterinarian to assess your dog’s heart rate and rhythm.
- **Assess whether a heart murmur is present.**
- **Recommend further tests** to help diagnose your dog’s condition. These tests may include:
  - X-ray
  - Blood test
  - Blood pressure test
  - Electrocardiogram
  - Echocardiogram

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**Chloe is 9 years old**

“*She’s a different dog—keeping up with her much younger playmate. I don’t doubt that without the medicine, we would no longer have our gorgeous girl (Chloe) with us.*”

**Troy, a 12-year-old Persian Greyhound**

“*Has gone from plodding to trotting.*”

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**Treating heart failure.**

Dogs diagnosed with heart failure should **begin treatment as soon as possible**. Treatment does not cure the common causes of heart failure, but the most advanced treatment options such as VETMEDIN® can **lengthen your dog’s life and greatly improve the quality of it too!**

With consistent treatment, owners of dogs with heart failure may see:

- **LESS COUGHING**
- **INCREASED ENERGY**
- **IMPROVED APPETITE**
- **LESS LIKELY TO STRUGGLE FOR BREATH OR FAINT**

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**Important safety information:** The most common side effects are poor appetite, lethargy, diarrhea, shortness of breath, weakness, and ataxia (lack of muscle control and coordination). If side effects occur, consult your veterinarian.
Ways to keep your dog healthy.

Once dogs are diagnosed with heart failure, it is important to watch them as they go about their daily activities. Below are some tips to help protect your dog’s heart:

1. **Take note of any changes** in your dog’s behavior, appetite, and level of movement.

2. **Monitor your dog’s breathing rate.** If it is consistently over 30 breaths per minute, this may be an indication of disease progression.

3. **Talk to your veterinarian** about any changes you notice.

4. **Maintain proper body weight** for your dog. Being overweight makes the heart work harder. Some dogs diagnosed with heart disease may need to switch to a different type of pet food.

5. **Avoid treats and “people food,”** such as cheese and meat or high sodium (salty) foods, as these will not be suitable for a dog with heart failure.

6. **Exercise your dog regularly.** Ask your veterinarian about the type, level, and frequency of exercise that are right for your dog.

7. **Don’t miss annual checkups.** Take your dog to the veterinarian at least once a year.

Frequently asked questions about heart disease in dogs.

**How will I know if my dog is at risk for heart disease?**

Look for subtle changes in behavior, such as starting to get tired on long walks, reluctance to play, or an occasional soft cough. See the checklist in this brochure and ask your veterinarian about your dog’s risk.

**What is the difference between heart disease and heart failure?**

In the early stages of heart disease, your dog’s body may make adjustments to allow him/her to cope with the disease. During this stage of the disease, your dog may show no visible signs of being unwell or the signs could be mistaken for normal aging. As time goes by and the disease progresses into heart failure, you will likely notice that your dog’s health is getting worse.

**Can my dog live longer with treatment?**

Many dogs diagnosed early with heart failure live long and full lives when treated and managed appropriately. The length of your dog’s life will depend greatly on a number of factors, including the cause and severity of your dog’s condition as well as response to treatment.
EMBRACE YOUR DOG AND ITS TREATMENT.

If you think your dog may be at risk for heart disease, contact your veterinarian soon to schedule a heart examination.

For more information about heart failure in dogs and the latest treatment options, visit www.yourdogsheart.com.

Important safety information: VETMEDIN should only be used in accordance with instructions from your veterinarian. Read the label, and use only as directed. VETMEDIN is not for use in humans: keep all medications out of reach of children and consult a physician in case of accidental ingestion. The safety of VETMEDIN has not been established in puppies younger than 6 months or in breeding, pregnant, or lactating dogs. Use only in dogs with clinical signs of congestive heart failure. The most common side effects are poor appetite, lethargy, diarrhea, shortness of breath, weakness, and ataxia (lack of muscle control and coordination). If side effects occur, consult your veterinarian.

For complete product information, please see product insert at http://vetmedin-us.com/Vetmedin_Insert_6-07.pdf.

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Vetmedin® (pimobendan)
Chewable Tablets
Cardiac drug for oral use in dogs only

Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a veterinarian.

Description: Vetmedin® (pimobendan) is supplied as oblong half-scored chewable tablets containing 1.25, 2.5, or 5 mg per tablet. Pimobendan, a benzimidazole-pyridazinone derivative, is a non-symptomatic, non-vasodilatory inotropic drug with vasoactive properties. It is chemically unrelated to theophylline, which is then conjugated with sulfate or glucuronic acid, and excreted mainly via the kidneys. The mean oral bioavailability of pimobendan is approximately 60% to 70%.

Treatment: All dogs were evaluated in dogs younger than 6 months of age, treated with either with congestive heart failure (CHF) due to AVVI (256 dogs) or DCM (99 dogs). Dogs were treated with either

The safety of Vetmedin has not been evaluated in dogs younger than 6 months of age. In extended-use studies, dogs 6 months of age or older and weighing 10 kg or more were enrolled in a 24-month field study developed acute cholestatic liver insufficiency (AVVI) or dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). Vetmedin... 800-663-2286.

Clinical Pharmacology: Pimobendan is oxidatively demethylated to a pharmacologically active metabolite which is then conjugated with sulfate or glucuronic acid and excreted mainly via the kidneys. The mean oral bioavailability of pimobendan is approximately 60% to 70%.

Adverse Reactions: Clinical findings/adverse reactions were recorded in a 56-day field study of dogs with congestive heart failure (CHF) due to AVVI (256 dogs) or DCM (99 dogs). Dogs were treated with either Vetmedin (175 dogs) or the active control enalapril maleate (180 dogs). Dogs in both treatment groups received additional background cardiac therapy (See Effectiveness).

Vetmedin group (1%)

Dogs that died due to CHF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Dogs</th>
<th>Active Control Group</th>
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<tr>
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<td>143</td>
<td>n=170</td>
<td>144</td>
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dogs with AVVI and DCM were below quantifiable levels by 4 and 8 hours after the initial dose.

Vetmedin® Chewable Tablets

NADA 141-273, Approved by FDA

NDC 0010-4482-01-5 mg - 50 tablets

Revised 06/2013

Manufactured by: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceutics S.A. d.v.C. Mexico City, Mexico

Manufactured for: Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., St. Joseph, Missouri

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Storage Information: Store at 20° to 25°C (70° to 77°F), excursions permitted between 15° and 30°C (between 59° and 86°F).

How Supplied: Vetmedin® (pimobendan) Chewable Tablets are available in the following half-scored chewable tablets - 50 tablets per bottle.

NDC 0010-4481-01-25 mg - 50 tablets

NDC 0010-4481-25 mg - 50 tablets

NDC 0010-4481-05 mg - 50 tablets

NDC 0010-4479-10 mg - 50 tablets

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