

Dear Colleagues,

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I would like to share this opportunity with you.

## Clinical Trial Offers Free Cardiac Health Monitoring for Dogs with Advanced, Stable, Mitral Valve Disease

**Study Purpose:** Assess whether pimobendan provides long-term benefit to dogs with stable, chronic, degenerative heart valve disease.

**Benefits:** This Clinical Trial pays for cardiac health monitoring up to 24 months

- Provides comprehensive cardiovascular health assessments by a cardiologist.
- Test results are shared with the referring veterinarian.

### Background:

- Most dogs develop degenerative mitral valve disease as they get older
- Enalapril provides a modest benefit to delay onset of CHF but does not improve survival:

**Study 1- Conclusions.** "Long-term treatment with enalapril in asymptomatic dogs with mitral valve disease and mitral regurgitation did not delay the onset of heart failure..." Kwart C *et al. J Vet Intern Med.* 2002;16:80-8.

**Study 2- Conclusions.** "Enalapril modestly delays the onset of CHF in dogs with moderate to severe mitral regurgitation," but "Improvement in the primary endpoint, CHF-free survival, was not significant." Atkins CE *et al. J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 2007;231:1061-9.

- Pimobendan improves life span for dogs with heart failure, but has not been evaluated in dogs with asymptomatic, moderate to severe mitral valve disease

### To be eligible for this study, a dog:

1. Must have a loud heart murmur, substantial left heart enlargement, but not heart failure.
2. Can receive medications for coughing or other medical conditions (but not heart drugs).
3. Must be  $\geq 6$  years old and weigh 9 – 33 pounds

### What does this study involve (all fees are paid for)?

- Outpatient screening exam (x-ray, echo/EKG). If pet qualifies, dog is randomized to receive pimobendan or placebo
- Follow-up outpatient cardiac monitoring exams are scheduled.
- If heart failure occurs, the study ends and heart medications are prescribed.
- *If we screen your patient and it does not qualify, the study will pay all fees*

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