

OFA Advanced Cardiac Clearance Database Fees

- Animals over 12 months of age \$15.00
- Litter of 3 or more submitted together \$30.00
- Kennel Rate—Minimum of 5 individuals submitted as a group, owned/co-owned by same person. \$1000 ea.

Credit Card Payment Information

Payments can be made by check, money order (U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank), cash, Visa, or Mastercard, payable to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. To pay by credit card, fill out the following information.

Visa/Master Card Number (1 digit per cell, no dashes)

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Cardholder name:

Exp. (MM YY)		CVV			

Abbreviations of diseases listed on front page

- ARVC:** Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy
ASD: Atrial septal defect
DCM: Dilated cardiomyopathy
MMVD: Myxomatous mitral valve disease
PDA: Patent ductus arteriosus
PS: Pulmonic stenosis
SAS/AS: Subaortic stenosis/aortic stenosis
TVD: Tricuspid valve dysplasia
MVD: Mitral valve dysplasia
VSD: Ventricular septal defect

Purpose of cardiac health screening in dogs

- To identify dogs free from any cardiac abnormality
- To ascertain the prevalence of heart murmurs, abnormal rhythms or specific heart defects in specific breeds
- To confirm the cause of heart murmurs or abnormal rhythms by further investigation of affected animals
- To collate data for investigation of a possible genetic basis to a specific heart problem in a given breed
- To advise the owner, breeder and dog's veterinarian when an abnormality has been identified and recommendations about any further investigation, if indicated

Methods of heart testing

1. Auscultation (examination with a stethoscope)

Auscultation allows detection of heart murmurs, the specific timing and localization as well as grading of intensity (grade 0-6) The heart rhythm is also assessed during auscultation Heart murmurs occur with many congenital heart defects and adult onset inherited cardiac diseases Abnormal heart rhythms may occur in animals without murmurs It may be difficult for the veterinarian to detect a soft murmur in a noisy room or in a dog that is uncooperative Some murmurs may change intensity at different heart rates, after exercise or excitement. **An auscultation is required for clearance in all dogs.**

2. Electrocardiogram (ECG)

An ECG records the electrical activity of the heart. The ECG can be used to assess cardiac conduction (how the electrical activity moves through the heart), heart rate and can specifically identify any arrhythmias that are present. An ECG is indicated if an abnormal heart rhythm is detected during the auscultation It may also be used to screen certain breeds of dogs for DCM or ARVC but does not preclude the requirement for a Holter monitor.

3. Echocardiogram (with Doppler)

Echocardiography allows visualization the heart chambers and valves in real-time and assessment of function and blood flow M-mode is used for measurements to be taken and compared with normal values for breed or size of dog Doppler is required to confirm the diagnosis of a specific type of congenital defect and to identify mildly versus severely affected animals. **An echocardiogram is required for clearance in all dogs.**

4. Holter ECG (separate report required)

Affected dogs may display ventricular arrhythmias early in the disease process, when the echocardiogram does not reveal any abnormalities or arrhythmias may be too infrequent to detect on physical exam. A Holter monitor allows detection of infrequent, but significant arrhythmias. **A Holter monitor is required in certain breeds (see below) predisposed to DCM, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy or congenital ventricular arrhythmias.** A Holter monitor may also be required in other breeds (at the discretion of the examining cardiologist) or in dogs with arrhythmias identified on auscultation or ECG.

A Holter monitor is required within 90 days of the clinical exam in the following breeds: **Doberman Pinscher, Boxer, Great Dane, Irish Wolfhound, German Shepherd, Rhodesian Ridgeback.**

Adult onset of inherited heart disease can appear at any age of an adult dog or cat. Testing for DCM, ARVC, MMVD and HCM is thus only valid for 1 year, after which time retesting is required to screen for onset of new abnormalities.