

Pet Owners: have you cared for a dog or cat with Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) within the past 10 years?



If so, please share your experiences by participating in the:

Survey of Owner Experiences Caring for Dogs & Cats with CHF

WHY: Survey results will help veterinarians better understand the experiences of pet owners' while managing **congestive heart failure (CHF)** in their pet. Please help us improve patient care and provide support for other owners! Survey participants can enter a drawing for a chance to win a \$99 gift card.

HOW: Access the online survey by going to <https://tinyurl.com/ISUCVMCHFSurvey> Or request a paper copy using the subject line "**CHF Survey - paper**" at chfsurvey@iastate.edu or by calling 515-294-7292.

WHO: Survey conducted by Drs. W. Ware & C. Vengrin

What is CHF?

CHF occurs when excess fluid accumulates in the body because the heart is not functioning normally. This fluid can accumulate within the lungs (pulmonary edema), around the lungs (pleural effusion), within the abdomen, and occasionally under the skin.

Do all animals with heart disease or a murmur develop CHF?

Not all animals with a murmur or other signs of heart disease have CHF. However, they could be at risk for developing CHF at a future time, depending on the underlying issues.

What are the signs of CHF?

CHF can cause reduced exercise tolerance, rapid or labored breathing, cough (usually not in cats), poor appetite, an enlarging abdomen, weakness or sudden collapse episodes. (Other diseases can cause these signs too).

Can CHF be treated?

Yes. Several medical strategies can help us remove the excess fluid & manage other signs. Goals of heart failure therapy include preventing fluid build-up, controlling complications, & providing good quality of life for as long as possible. Many animals live well for months to even several years with appropriate medical therapy & home care.

