

Diagnostic tests which often help to define the type and extent of heart disease your dog or cat has include:

ELECTROCARDIOGRAM

This is a brief recording of the electrical activity in the heart. Many animals with heart disease have abnormal electrical activity which may or may not require treatment.

CHEST RADIOGRAPH

This is an x-ray of the heart and lungs. This test will provide information about the size and shape of the heart as well as giving us information about the health status of the lungs.

HOLTER MONITOR/ EVENT RECORDER

These devices record long periods of the heart's electrical activity, usually 24 hours to several days.

ECHOCARDIOGRAM

This is the often times the most important test a Cardiologist can perform. It is an ultrasound of the heart. At Garden State Veterinary Specialists, our **Board Certified Cardiologists** use a state-of-the-art human echocardiography machine which provides vital information about the structure and function of the heart.

ANGIOCARDIOGRAPHY

This is when a dye is injected into the heart. It is similar to an x-ray, but this provides additional information about the structure and function of the heart. It is most frequently utilized in pets with congenital heart disease.

MRI

Occasionally an MRI can provide beneficial information about the heart and it's surrounding structures in ways that the other imaging modalities cannot.

Each one of these tests is unique and provides us with certain information that the other tests could not. As a result, it is common for pets with heart disease to undergo two or more of these tests when being evaluated for heart disease.

Our Facility



Garden State Veterinary Specialists

was founded in 1994, by Dr. Thomas D. Scavelli. GSVS is a multi-disciplinary

REFERRAL ONLY

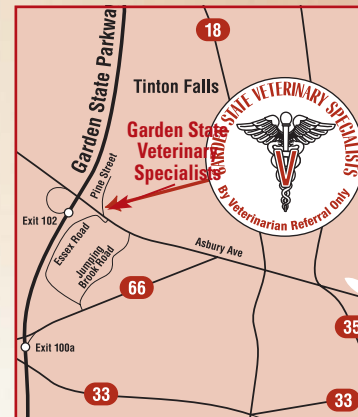
HOSPITAL located right in your neighborhood.

Our goal is to provide progressive state-of-the-art veterinary care

in the fields of surgery, internal medicine, cardiology, neurology/neurosurgery, ophthalmology, dermatology, oncology, nuclear medicine and emergency/critical care. Our 24-hour referral hospital and emergency/critical care unit consists of a team of experienced, dedicated specialists utilizing state-of-the-art diagnostic technologies, cutting edge medical procedures and an exceptional support staff to provide a caring, nurturing, comprehensive environment. We are committed to making the referral experience one of personal service.

Referral Policy

Patients treated at Garden State Veterinary Specialists must be referred by their veterinarian. The patient will only be treated for the condition for which they were referred, no routine procedures (i.e. vaccinations, prophylactic heartworm testing) are performed on any patients of the hospital.



One Pine Street
Tinton Falls, NJ 07753
S/B GSP Exit 102, N/B GSP Exit 100 A

Tel: 732-922-0011 • Fax 732-922-0991

www.gsvs.org
www.felinehyperthyroidism.com

CARDIAC CARE



Joshua M. Gidlewski, DVM

Diplomate American College of Veterinary
Internal Medicine (Cardiology)





Echocardiogram

Size of pacemaker compared to size of a quarter

Event Monitor

Holter Monitor

At GSVS, the Cardiology Service is headed by Joshua M. Gidlewski, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (Cardiology).

A 2000 graduate of University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Gidlewski completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital. It was there that he began to hone his clinical skills in veterinary cardiology. Josh continued his studies as a resident at The Animal Medical Center in New York City. He became one of just over 100 Board Certified Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Cardiology) in July 2004. Thereafter, Dr. Gidlewski joined GSVS where he developed a high quality Cardiology Service staffed by specially trained technicians and GSVS's own team of Board Certified Specialists. A multi-disciplinary approach is used in every patient's care providing advanced veterinary diagnostics and treatment. Josh has a special interest in echocardiography of congenital heart disease and interventional cardiology.

Heart Disease in the Dog & Cat

You may know that heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. But did you know that heart disease also occurs commonly in pets all across our country? Heart disease affects an estimated one in every ten dogs and cats. As our pets age, the number of animals affected by heart disease increases dramatically. By some estimations, greater than 30% of geriatric dogs are affected by heart disease. Animals can be born with heart disease, which is called congenital cardiac disease. Conversely, most of our pets are born without heart disease, but many will go on to develop heart disease later on in life. This is called Acquired Cardiac Disease.



Q How do I know if my dog or cat has heart disease?

A Because our pets cannot talk to us, it is often difficult to determine if our animals' quality of life is affected by Cardiac Disease. In fact, it is very common for owners *not* to know their pet has heart disease until the disease is very severe. The most common signs that pets with heart disease demonstrate include difficulty breathing, coughing, exercise intolerance and intermittent weakness or even collapse. These symptoms often come on suddenly and are progressive. Fortunately, there are frequent abnormalities on the physical exam that may cause your veterinarian to suspect your dog or cat has heart disease. By performing different diagnostic tests, a complete understanding of your pet's heart disease can be achieved.



Q What can be done to help my dog or cat if they have been diagnosed with heart disease?

A The exact type and extent of treatment your pet may receive depends on what their diagnosis is. In fact, not every dog or cat that is diagnosed with heart disease needs treatment. However, there are many pets with heart conditions that need treatments. The treatment each pet receives is tailored to their specific needs. For instance, there are many medications that can be given, both in the emergency setting and chronically, that will help dogs and cats with congestive heart failure. While one patient may need one or two medications to improve his quality of life and help him live a longer life, another animal with a similar condition may require six or seven medications to achieve the same goal. Even still, there are other animals that are affected by conditions that do not typically respond well to medications, but can be dramatically improved by surgical procedures such as transvenous pacemaker implantation, patent ductus arteriosus coil occlusion and balloon valvuloplasty.