

Does Age Influence Cardiac Structure and Function in Cats?

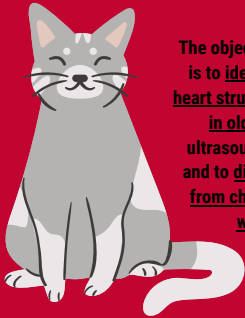
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Clinical Trial Purpose



As cats age, their heart changes but exactly how is unknown. As humans age, we develop thicker and stiffer heart walls. Similar changes (thickening of the heart muscle and impaired heart function) are seen in cats with the common heart disease, Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM).

To be able to differentiate between age-related changes and disease is very important. HCM requires monitoring and potential treatment, whereas age-related variations may be benign and of little or no concern.



The objective of this study is to identify the normal heart structure and function in older cats using ultrasound investigation and to differentiate these from changes observed with HCM.

Is Your Pet Eligible?

Inclusion criteria: Healthy cats ≥ 10 years.

Financial Incentives (Supported by OVC Pet Trust)

Physical exam, ultrasound investigation of the heart and bloodwork (complete blood count, biochemistry profile and total T4) are included with study participation.

The Process

- 1 If your cat is eligible, a study appointment will be scheduled. On arrival to the hospital, your cat will be examined by one of the research team clinicians.
- 2 Small squares will be shaved on your cat's armpits and neck. A numbing cream called EMLA will be applied to the neck where blood will be collected.
- 3 Using an ultrasound machine, an ultrasound investigation of the heart (the same procedure in humans) will be performed and your cat will be returned to your care.
- 4 The collected blood samples will be analyzed in the laboratory using specialized equipment. You and your veterinarian will be informed about the ultrasound findings and blood results.



Questions about this study can be sent to: cscardio@uoguelph.ca