Current Veterinary Clinical Trials:
HEALTHY CATS WITH HEART MURMURS

■ Background
• Because of patient “nerves” (called sympathetic tone), many cats have elevated heart rates while they are in hospital, which makes important cardiac measurements difficult to obtain. Although timolol is used in pets and humans with glaucoma, this commonly used eye drop may also slightly decrease an already elevated heart rate. Therefore, we are investigating the use of timolol to help improve our ability to measure heart function using echocardiogram (cardiac ultrasound).

■ Participation Requirements
• Cats that have a heart murmur, are free of respiratory (e.g., feline asthma) and ocular disease, and tolerate handling without sedation as your pet is required to lay on his/her side for about 15-30 minutes for the echocardiogram.

■ Procedures
• A complete echocardiographic study will be completed as part of your normal work up by the Cardiology service at UC Davis.
• If we determine that your cat is eligible for the study and you agree to be involved in it, a small blood sample will be taken and saved for future genetic analysis. One drop of an ophthalmic medication called timolol will be instilled into the right eye of your pet. About 15-20 minutes later, a brief recheck echocardiogram will be performed.

■ Owner Responsibilities
• Covering the cost associated with the initial Cardiology exam and echocardiograph ($125)
• Alerting the Cardiology service of any cough, behavior changes, eye irritations, or medical concerns observed within 24 hours

■ Benefits
• The study will cover for a significant portion of those costs (reducing the expense to approximately $125 compared to $450 or more), the administration of timolol and the brief recheck echocardiogram after the administration of this medication.
• A full cardiology report that you and your family veterinarian can use to assess your pet’s cardiac health at a significant cost reduction.
• Results from this study will improve the ability to diagnose cardiac dysfunction by helping us obtain important measurements about heart function more accurately. This in turn will help us diagnose some heart diseases earlier, more accurately, and institute treatment (if warranted) sooner. If this trial is successful, these eye drops may transform the way feline heart hearts are routinely evaluated and help us better understand common heart diseases in cats (such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy or HCM).

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Dr. Josh Stern

CONTACT INFORMATION
Eric Ontiveros
(530) 752-4892 • esontiveros@ucdavis.edu
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clinicaltrials/