

Current Veterinary Clinical Trials

HEART DISEASE

Assessing Pimobedan as a Treatment for HCM in Cats

■ Background & Purpose

- Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common heart disease in cats. The drug, pimobendan, has been shown to have significant clinical benefits in cats with HCM; however, more studies are needed to evaluate exactly how this drug affects heart function so that we can use it better to treat our feline patients. Therefore, the purpose of this clinical trial is to evaluate the effects of pimobendan on heart function in cats affected with HCM.

■ Participation Requirements

- Cats with suspected or confirmed HCM, including those with heart murmurs, congestive heart failure, or elevated NT-ProBNP on bloodwork (>100pmol/L)
- **Ineligible:** Cats that take certain medications affecting heart function, are not easily handled, or have systemic disease, high blood pressure, abnormal heart rhythms, or blood clots within their hearts

■ Procedures

- A cardiovascular examination, blood pressure assessment, and echocardiogram before pimobendan administration, one to two hours after administration and then 1 week later
- A blood draw for cardiac biomarker assessment, thyroid hormone, and genetic analysis
- Random assignment to a group to receive either placebo or pimobendan by mouth twice daily for one week

■ Owner Responsibilities

- Keeping both scheduled appointments
- Monitoring your cat and administering pimobendan or placebo twice a day for the week between visits
- Covering the cost (\$181) of a discounted cardiovascular examination and cardiac ultrasound
- Filling out a brief questionnaire at each appointment

■ Benefits

- The study will cover a significant portion of the costs (reducing the cost of a complete cardiovascular examination to approximately \$181 down from over \$800).
- Results of the study will help us better understand how pimobendan works in cats and will help us learn how to use it best to help our cat patients with heart disease. This study could greatly affect how we treat heart disease in cats.



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Dr. Josh Stern • Dr. Lance Visser
Dr. Maureen Oldach

CONTACT INFORMATION

sterngenetics@ucdavis.edu
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clinicaltrials/

