

# **Evaluation of survival in dogs affected by Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease**

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# What is Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease?

- Myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) is the most common acquired heart disease in dogs (accounts for more than 70% of all cardiovascular diseases in dogs).
- MMVD occurs when there is degeneration in one of the heart valves (specifically the mitral valve for this study) that prevents complete closure of the valve.
- This allows some backflow and congestion of the blood, which can lead to enlargement of the heart, and eventually, congestive heart failure (CHF).



# **Discussion/Conclusion**

- The creation of the survival curve was able to show the proportion of survivability over time in dogs with MMVD. Excluding the age of the dog or other possible underlying conditions, the survival curve demonstrated a significant impact on survivability within a lifespan of up to 4.5 years after examination.
- More research is needed to be done to have a more comprehensive grasp on MMVD and survivability, but this preliminary research was a good first step. True fruition of the research will take many years as the study follows the

# Data – Survival Curve





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# **LOOK-Mitral Registry**

- A partnership registry between VMCVM and CVCA: Cardiac Care for Pets.
- LOOK Mitral is the first registry for dogs with MMVD.
- A large database where data is collected from over 6,000 patients, following them over their years.
- Data for the study was collected, analyzed, and interpreted from the LOOK-Mitral registry.

**Objectives** 

- Survival curve is plotted with the percentage of dogs that survived (y-axis) against time (x-axis).
- Figure 1: The survival curve was calculated based on the proportion of survivability after the dog's first cardiologic exam; plotted against time in days.
  - Figure 2: The survival curve is a more generic proportion of survivability based on the age of the dog, from birth to death; plotted against time in months.

Results

- To evaluate survival rates in dogs with MMVD with the creation of a survival curve for future use in research to further understand the implications of MMVD and the cause
- Data was compiled for 75 dogs that had passed since being enrolled in the study.
- Of the 75 dogs in the study, 34 (45.3%) were confirmed to have passed a cardiac-related death.

progression over the dog's lifespan.

- Further data can be used to classify survival time in dogs to more closely understand the impact of MMVD. For example, determining survival time based on the ACVIM classifications, or using data to understand if there are predictors that can significantly impact survival time.
- Determining if age, gender, breed, size, and whether medications were used can also be used to further understand MMVD and their roles in the impact on survival.



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## **Materials and Methods**

- The research was conducted remotely with access to medical records from CVCA and VA-MD.
- Medical records were also obtained from various clinics that interacted most recently with the patient before death.
- Analyzation and interpretation of records from all three locations to then tabulate all cardiac-relevant data into a spreadsheet.
- Data in the spreadsheet was used to determine the date of death, cause of death, and if possible, whether the death was cardiac-related or other, which was then used to calculate the survival curve.



- Of the 34 dogs that passed, 28 (82.4%) were euthanized, and 5 (14.7%) had a sudden death.
- Figure 1: The mean survival time was 379.1 +/- 82.4 days (12.6 +/- 2.7 months) after initial cardiologic examination. ;A Range: 3 – 1560 days (0.1 – 52 months). The median survival time was 379 days. ;4
- Figure 2: The mean survival time was 145.5 +/- 5.9 months after birth.
  - Range: 57 204 months.
  - The median survival time was 150 months.

### **ACVIM Classification**





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### https://research.vetmed.vt.edu/labs/faculty-labs/borgarelli-lab/look-mitral.html

# Acknowledgments

- Michele Borgarelli, DVM, Ph.D., DECVIM Companion Animals (Cardiology) Professor, Cardiology
- Director, Comparative Cardiovascular Laboratory Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine
  - Alessandra Franchini, DVM Ph.D. candidate Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine



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