Myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) is the most common heart disease in dogs. Current nutritional guidelines focus on recommendations for dogs after they show evidence of cardiac changes. But new research demonstrates that a Cardiac Protection Blend (CPB) of nutrients can help improve heart function and slow disease progression in dogs with early stage MMVD—before dogs show signs of heart failure.

**Key Messages**

- Myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) is the most common cause of acquired canine heart disease.¹⁻³
- In North America, MMVD accounts for approximately 75% of canine heart disease.¹
- Most affected dogs are older, small breed dogs weighing less than 20 kg, although MMVD can also occur in larger dogs.¹⁻⁴
- Dogs with MMVD appear healthy until they reach later stages of disease. But, internally, the heart is changing even in this preclinical time.¹

*(continued on next page)*
**Key Messages (continued)**

**ACVIM stages of MMVD in dogs**

- MMVD is a slowly progressive disease, but the rate of progression is hard to predict.¹
- Approximately 30% of dogs with MMVD progress to advanced disease.²,⁵
- Current nutritional recommendations focus mainly on managing signs after congestive heart failure occurs, but new research shows that a Cardiac Protection Blend (CPB) of nutrients can help improve heart function and slow disease progression in dogs with early stage MMVD.¹,⁶,⁷
  - A 6-month dietary study showed clinical benefits in key cardiac measures in dogs with early stage MMVD that were fed CPB in a complete and balanced diet.⁶
    - More than 1/3 of dogs on the control diet progressed from B1 to B2; there was no progression in the CPB-fed dogs.
    - Left atrial size increased by an average 10% in control-fed dogs; CPB-fed dogs had an average 3% decrease in left atrial size.
    - Severity of mitral regurgitation worsened in 25% of control-fed dogs, but in CPB dogs, only 10% worsened and 30% improved.
- Metabolomics research showed that clinical benefits in dogs fed the CPB were associated with positive changes at the molecular level.⁷,⁸

**References**


The Purina Institute aims to help put nutrition at the forefront of pet health discussions by providing user-friendly, science-based information that helps pets live longer, healthier lives.