

**RBVH**  
Red Bank Veterinary Hospital



*Cardiology  
Department*

Tinton Falls  
(732) 747-3636

Hillsborough  
(908) 359-3161

Mount Laurel  
(856) 429-4394



The **Cardiology Department at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital** specializes in diseases affecting a pet's heart and lungs. Our veterinarians have experience in treating acquired and congenital heart disease as well as pericardial disease. In addition, we respond to your pet's needs as a whole, ensuring overall comfort and wellbeing.

## ***Understanding Pet Heart Disease***

Pets with heart disease, or other ailments affecting the heart and lungs, may not always have visible signs of discomfort. Others may experience breathing difficulties, coughing, fainting, or lethargy depending on the stage of illness.

- **Acquired** refers to heart disease that is not present from birth but rather develops as a pet ages. This type of disease may affect the conducting tissue, valves, muscle, or pericardial sac. Diagnosis and treatment will depend on the results of diagnostics such as blood work, chest radiographs (x-ray), electrocardiogram (ECG), and echocardiogram.
- **Congenital** refers to developmental changes in the heart that are typically present in patients since birth. The severity of these diseases is evaluated by using cardiac catheterization, angiography, and echocardiography, both externally and internally via a scope in the esophagus. Several diseases, such as pulmonic stenosis and patent ductus arteriosus, may be cured or have their severity greatly reduced with surgery.
- **Pericardial** refers to changes in the sac, or pericardium, that surrounds the heart. The most common type is the formation of fluid in the pericardium. We are unique in our ability to perform many procedures using both invasive and non-invasive techniques, which helps patients avoid large incisions and long recovery times.

# OUR CARDIOLOGISTS DIAGNOSE AND TREAT A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS, INCLUDING:

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- Arrhythmias
- Cardiomyopathy
- Congenital Heart Disease
- Congestive Heart Failure
- Heartworm Disease
- Pericardial Effusion
- Pleural Space Disease
- Pulmonary Disease
- Valvular Disease



The most common heart disease in dogs is an age-related disease of the mitral valve. Some animals are born with an abnormal mitral valve but it is usually an age-related change termed chronic valve disease. The mitral valve separates the two heart chambers – the atrium and the ventricle - on the left side. It opens and closes with each heartbeat, allowing oxygenated blood to only move away from the lungs and toward the rest of the body. Over time, this valve can become thickened and allow blood to flow backwards, creating a heart murmur. The valve changes can progress slowly or quickly, cause the heart to enlarge, and result in heart failure or fluid build-up in the lungs. The enlarged heart can also press on the windpipe causing the patient to develop a cough.

During your visit, you can expect the cardiologist to perform a complete physical examination and diagnostic tests. The doctor will also discuss observations about your pet's health and behavior.

While some conditions require surgery, others can be managed with medications. In all cases, we are prepared to consult with other specialists, when needed. Our goal is to return your pet home with the maximum level of comfort and quality of life.

# RBVH<sup>®</sup>

## Red Bank Veterinary Hospital

[www.rbvh.net](http://www.rbvh.net)

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### TINTON FALLS



#### **24-HOUR EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE SPECIALTY CARE BY REFERRAL ONLY**

197 Hance Avenue • Tinton Falls, NJ 07724  
732-747-3636

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### HILLSBOROUGH

#### **24-HOUR EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE SPECIALTY CARE BY REFERRAL ONLY**

210 Route 206 S. • Hillsborough, NJ 08844  
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### MOUNT LAUREL

#### **24-HOUR EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE SPECIALTY CARE BY REFERRAL ONLY**

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