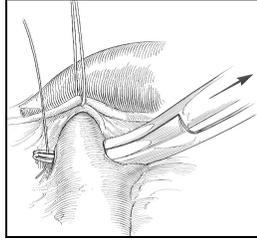


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# Patent Ductus Arteriosus

- Patent ductus arteriosus [PDA] is the most (?) common congenital heart condition in dogs. It occurs in 8 of 1000 live births, and is known to be an inherited condition in miniature poodles. It is also more common in the German Shepherd dog, Collie, Pomeranian, Shetland sheep dog, and other toy breeds. Its incidence is likely higher as some die of the disease before it is identified.
- It is sometimes the cause of the “runt” in a litter. Often the puppies grow normally.
- It is defined as the failure of the fetal ductus arteriosus to close, as it should shortly after birth. This creates a permanent communication between the descending aorta and the pulmonary artery, and a resultant left-to-right shunt.
- PDA is initially diagnosed by auscultation of a continuous murmur high at the left base. Many puppies are identified during routine examination for their first vaccinations.
- Most dogs develop significant clinical signs of the disease by one year of age. Most cats will die before a few weeks of age.
- Congestive heart failure will occur in most cases, although a few dogs will live a normal life.
- Early surgery will prevent the development of heart failure, resulting in a normal life expectancy.
- Surgical correction of the PDA is generally strait forward and very rewarding if done before the development of cardiac failure.
- Surgery is done daily and on an emergency basis. As most cases are non-emergent, surgery will generally be scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday.
- Hospitalization is typically 1 to 2 nights.
- We will coordinate postoperative aftercare with your hospital. Typical care includes:
  - A 4-5 day postoperative incision check.
  - A 10-12 day suture removal.
- Please send any preoperative laboratory tests, appropriate history, radiographs, and ultrasound.
- Uncomplicated and routine cases are \$1600 to \$2000. Emergency referrals for dogs in heart failure will require medical stabilization prior to surgery and will be representatively more [July 2012]. Ask for an estimate.