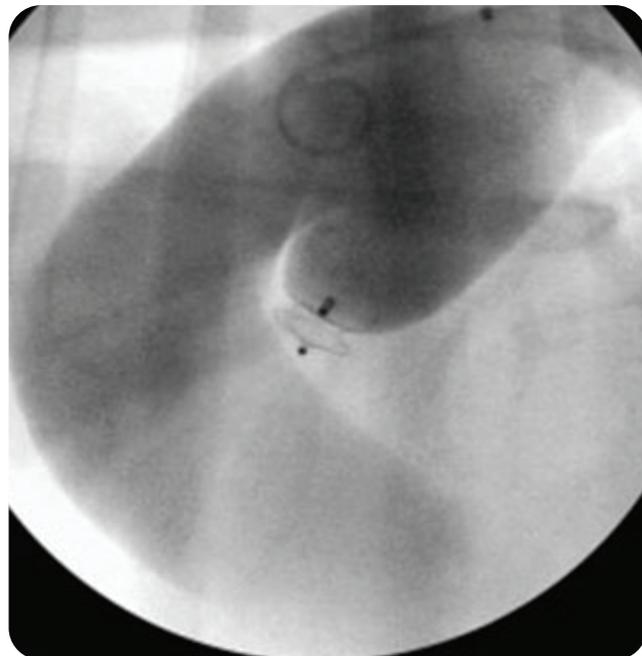


# PDA Occlusion



When your pet is diagnosed with a congenital heart condition like patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), it can feel overwhelming. You may be unsure what the diagnosis means, what treatment involves, or how it will affect your pet's quality of life. At Sawgrass Veterinary Cardiology, we understand how stressful this can feel, and we are here to guide you every step of the way.



A PDA is a blood vessel that is supposed to close naturally after birth but remains open, creating an abnormal connection between two major blood vessels. This forces the heart to work harder than it should, often leading to heart enlargement, fluid buildup in the lungs, and eventually heart failure if untreated.

One of the most effective ways we can treat this condition is through a PDA occlusion, a minimally invasive procedure designed to close the vessel and restore normal circulation. By closing the PDA, we relieve the strain on your pet's heart and give them the best chance at a long, healthy life.

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## How is a PDA occlusion performed?

The procedure is carried out under general anesthesia by our team of board-certified veterinary cardiologists. Using advanced imaging, we insert a small catheter into a blood vessel in the leg or neck. Through this catheter, we place a special device—often called a coil or occluder—that seals the PDA from the inside.

This technique avoids open-chest surgery, involves only a small incision site, and typically allows pets to go home within 24 hours. The procedure has a very high success rate, and once the PDA is closed, most pets are considered cured of their heart defect.

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## **What happens after the procedure?**

Most pets need only a short period of rest at home before returning to normal activity. We will provide clear instructions about exercise, wound care, and any short-term medications. Follow-up visits and imaging allow us to confirm that the PDA has fully closed and that the heart is recovering as expected.

You may notice your pet has more energy, breathes more easily, and tolerates exercise better than before. In fact, many families tell us they didn't realize how much their pet was struggling until they saw the improvement after treatment.

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## **Are there any risks or side effects?**

As with any procedure requiring anesthesia, there are some risks, though complications are uncommon. Potential risks include bleeding, infection at the catheter site, or device movement. Our team takes every precaution to minimize these risks and will discuss them with you in detail beforehand.

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## **Will my pet need lifelong medications?**

In most cases, once the PDA is successfully closed, no ongoing cardiac medications are required. Some pets may need short-term medications during recovery, but long-term drug therapy is usually unnecessary unless another heart condition is present.