

# Pulmonic Balloon Valvuloplasty & Stenting



**Sawgrass  
Veterinary  
Cardiology**

Some pets are born with a narrowing of the valve that regulates blood flow from the right side of the heart to the lungs. This condition, called pulmonic stenosis, makes it harder for the heart to pump blood forward. Over time, the extra effort can strain the heart muscle, lead to arrhythmias, and shorten life expectancy if left untreated.



Pulmonic balloon valvuloplasty is a minimally invasive procedure that can widen the narrowed valve, improving blood flow and reducing strain on the heart. In certain cases, especially when vessels are narrowed or obstructed, stenting may also be used to keep the passageway open. These advanced techniques often allow pets to live longer, healthier lives with improved quality of life.

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## What To Expect

Your pet's care begins with a thorough diagnostic work-up, including echocardiography and other tests to confirm the severity of pulmonic stenosis and determine if balloon valvuloplasty or stenting is the right treatment.

On the day of the procedure, your pet is placed under general anesthesia for complete safety and comfort. Using specialized catheters inserted through a vein (often in the neck or groin), our cardiology team guides a balloon to the narrowed valve. The balloon is then inflated to stretch the valve open. If additional support is needed, a stent can be placed to keep the area open long-term.

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Because this is a catheter-based procedure, there is no open-chest surgery involved. Most pets go home the next day, and many show improvement in their energy, exercise tolerance, and overall comfort within days to weeks.

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## How It Helps Your Pet

Pulmonic balloon valvuloplasty and stenting are highly effective for reducing obstruction in the heart. Benefits may include:

- Improved blood flow from the heart to the lungs
- Reduced pressure on the right side of the heart
- Lower risk of arrhythmias and heart failure
- Increased stamina and activity levels
- Better long-term outlook and quality of life

Not every case of pulmonic stenosis can be corrected fully, but even partial improvement can make a meaningful difference for your pet.

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## Risks and Considerations

Every pet is unique, and the risks associated with balloon valvuloplasty or stenting can vary depending on their overall health, the severity of the condition, and other medical factors. While most pets tolerate the procedure very well, potential complications can include bleeding, arrhythmias, partial improvement of the obstruction, or, an obstruction reoccurrence years later despite initial improvement. In some situations, additional treatment may be necessary.

Your cardiologist will carefully evaluate your pet and explain the specific risks and expected outcome in detail, so you can make a confident and informed decision about their care.

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## **After The Procedure**

Regular rechecks with echocardiography and ECG are important after the procedure to monitor your pet's progress. In some cases, medications may still be recommended to support heart function. With the right follow-up care, many pets treated with balloon valvuloplasty or stenting go on to live active, happy lives.

Hearing that your pet has pulmonic stenosis can feel overwhelming, but advanced options like balloon valvuloplasty and stenting give hope. At Sawgrass Veterinary Cardiology, our board-certified team combines technical expertise with compassionate care, guiding you and your pet every step of the way.