

Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair (TEER)



Pictured: Left, Dr. John Hertzler, and Right, Dr. Dewey Carpenter -
Board-Certified Veterinary Cardiologists



Learning that your pet has mitral valve disease can be concerning. This condition, where the mitral valve does not close properly, allows blood to leak backward into the heart. Over time, the leakage forces the heart to work harder, leading to coughing, exercise intolerance, fainting, or congestive heart failure.

Traditional treatment relies on lifelong medication, which helps but does not correct the underlying valve problem.

For some patients, especially when medications are no longer enough, advanced options are needed.

That's where the TEER procedure (Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair) comes in. TEER is a minimally invasive procedure that allows cardiologists to repair a leaky mitral valve without open-heart surgery. By helping the valve close more effectively, TEER improves blood flow, reduces strain on the heart, and often restores a better quality of life.

Who Can Perform the TEER Procedure?

TEER is one of the most advanced procedures available in veterinary cardiology. Because it requires specialized equipment, imaging, and training, it can only be performed by board-certified veterinary cardiologists with experience in interventional procedures.

At Sawgrass Veterinary Cardiology, our team has been trained in TEER techniques alongside leading experts and works closely with specialists in anesthesia, surgery, and critical care. This collaborative approach ensures

1

Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair (TEER)



that your pet is cared for by a team with the highest level of expertise at every step.

When you choose TEER at Sawgrass, you can feel confident that your pet is in the hands of a cardiology team uniquely qualified to perform this life-changing procedure.

How It Helps Your Pet

The goal of TEER is to reduce the leakage of blood through the mitral valve and ease the workload on the heart. Benefits may include:

- Reduced coughing and breathing difficulties
- Better exercise tolerance and stamina
- Lower risk of fluid buildup in the lungs
- Improved comfort and quality of life
- Longer survival compared to medication alone in some cases

While TEER is not a cure for mitral valve disease, it can provide meaningful relief and extend both the length and quality of your pet's life.

Risks and Considerations

Every pet is different, and candidacy for TEER depends on their individual anatomy, the severity of disease, and overall health. While most patients tolerate the procedure very well, possible complications include bleeding, arrhythmias, or incomplete reduction of valve leakage. In rare cases, additional intervention may be needed.

Your cardiologist will discuss your pet's specific risks and expected outcome before the procedure, ensuring you have the clarity and confidence to make the right decision for their care.

2

Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair (TEER)



Follow-Up Care

After TEER, follow-up care is essential to monitor heart function and adjust medications as needed. Recheck exams with echocardiography and ECG help ensure the valve repair is working as intended. Most pets continue on heart medications, though often at lower doses or reduced combinations, depending on the outcome.

With the right follow-up plan, many pets experience a noticeable improvement in breathing, activity, and overall well-being.

Prognosis After The TEER Surgery

Mitral valve disease doesn't have to mean a poor quality of life. With advanced treatments like TEER, there is real hope for pets whose heart disease has progressed beyond medication alone.

At Sawgrass Veterinary Cardiology, our board-certified specialists combine cutting-edge procedures with compassionate care, guiding you through each step of your pet's journey toward a healthier heart and a brighter future.



sawvetcardio.com

(954) 487-8357

admin@sawvetcardio.com

Boynton Beach | Jupiter | Fort Lauderdale | Royal Palm Beach