Background
• Myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) is the most common heart disease in dogs. The drug, pimobendan, has been shown to have significant benefits in dogs with MMVD and delay the onset of congestive heart failure.
• Unfortunately, many dogs with MMVD have concurrent kidney disease; therefore, the purpose of this clinical trial is to evaluate the effect of pimobendan on kidney function.

Participation Requirements
• Dogs (5 to 44 lbs) with a moderately loud murmur or moderate cardiac enlargement on chest x-rays
• Ineligible: Dogs:
  • Taking medications affecting heart or kidney function
  • That are not easily handled
  • With high systemic blood pressure, abnormal heart rhythms, other concurrent heart diseases, pulmonary hypertension, or congestive heart failure

Procedures
• A cardiovascular examination, blood pressure assessment, cardiac ultrasound, chest x-rays, and bloodwork
• Injection of a contrast agent using a catheter
• Multiple blood draws after contrast agent administration to measure kidney function
• Administration of either placebo or pimobendan (standard or high-dose) by mouth twice daily for one week
• Completion of two brief questionnaires

Owner Responsibilities
• Keep both scheduled appointments and fast your pet 12 hours prior to each visit
• Monitor your dog closely for any health changes at home
• Administer the medication twice a day for the week between visits
• Cover any cost of additional diagnostic tests recommended by your dog’s cardiologist
• Keep your dog on its normal diet consistently throughout the study period
• Fill out a brief questionnaire at each appointment

Benefits
• The study will cover all study costs.
• Results of the study will help us better understand how pimobendan works in dogs with heart disease and concurrent kidney disease. This study could greatly affect how we treat heart disease in dogs.