

# **CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE**

**Congestive Heart Failure** is a chronic condition in which a weakened heart does not pump enough blood to maintain normal body functions.

The body fluids tend to “back-up” behind the heart, either in the lungs or in the abdomen. Signs seen by the owner are a result of these conditions.

**Signs include:**

- 1. Shortness of breath, tiring on exercise.**
- 2. Deep, dry coughing.**
- 3. Weight loss.**
- 4. Enlarged abdomen, swollen, puffy legs.**
- 5. Cyanosis-blue discoloration of the tongue and lips.**
- 6. Fainting spells.**

**Congestive Heart Failure** can result from disease affecting the heart valves, birth defects, infections, Heartworm, or just “old” age.

Although **Congestive Heart Failure** **CANNOT** be cured, many patients can live a **COMFORTABLE** life with proper medical management.

**NOTE:** As time goes on, your pet will begin to show more severe signs as the heart continues to degenerate. It is **IMPOSSIBLE** to estimate the life expectancy. Our major concern is making your pet as comfortable as possible so that the quality of life is maintained.