



## Pulmonary Hypertension (PHT)

Pulmonary hypertension (PHT) is high blood pressure in the arteries of the lungs. If the high blood pressure becomes too elevated oxygen exchange is compromised, which causes fainting, collapse, fatigue, and respiratory signs. More severe PHT can result in right sided heart failure, leading to abdominal fluid retention and bloating. PHT can only be accurately diagnosed by estimating the pulmonary (lung) pressure from the Doppler studies during an echocardiogram.

This condition is often secondary to primary heart disease, most frequently degenerative mitral valve disease. Primary conditions affecting the lungs can also restrict the blood flow through the lungs causing PHT. Less commonly, PHT is the primary condition without a known cause.

The prognosis and success for treating dogs with pulmonary hypertension varies and often depends on the underlying cause. Typical treatment involves managing the underlying heart condition, and use of medications that dilate pulmonary arteries to reduce pressure in the lungs.