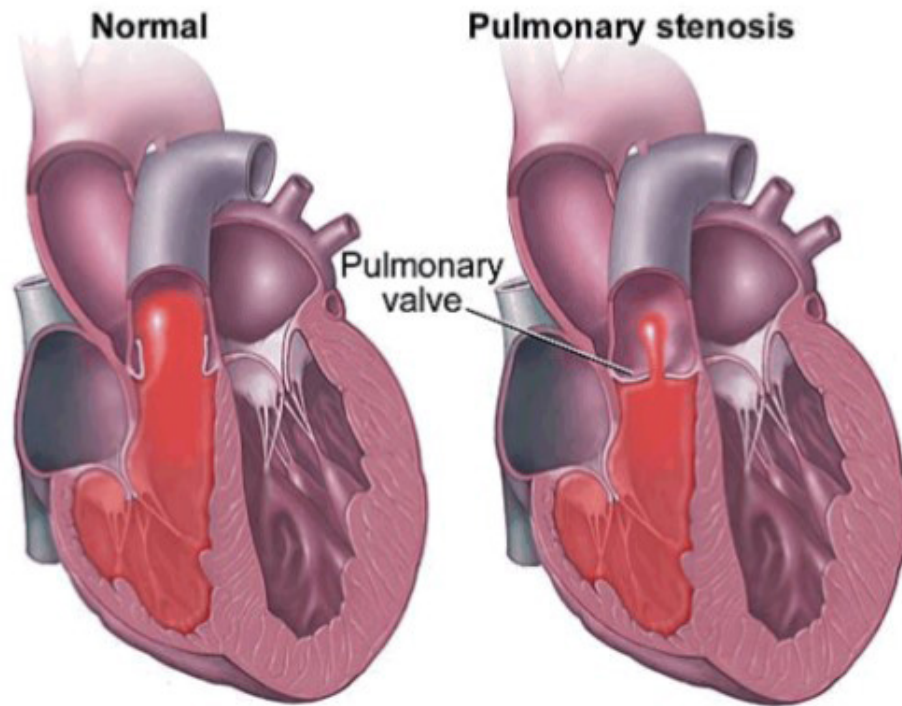


## Pulmonic Stenosis



Pulmonic Stenosis (PS) is a defect involving narrowing of the pulmonic valve and/or the surrounding structures of the right ventricle and pulmonary artery. The pulmonic valve normally opens during contraction, allowing blood to be pumped from the right ventricle to the lungs. PS is a narrowing (stenosis) of this region resulting in increased work load on the right ventricle causing hypertrophy (excessive heart muscle thickening).

PS is classified as mild, moderate, and severe. Pets with mild PS usually live normal lives without treatment. Moderate to severe disease may result in exercise intolerance, shortness of breath, or even fainting. In more severe cases congestive heart failure may develop, resulting in excess fluid in the abdominal cavity.

Therapeutic recommendations are made based on the presence of clinical symptoms, the anatomy of the defect, and any concurrent congenital abnormalities. A procedure known as Balloon Valvuloplasty can be effective in some dogs. Medication may also help symptomatically.