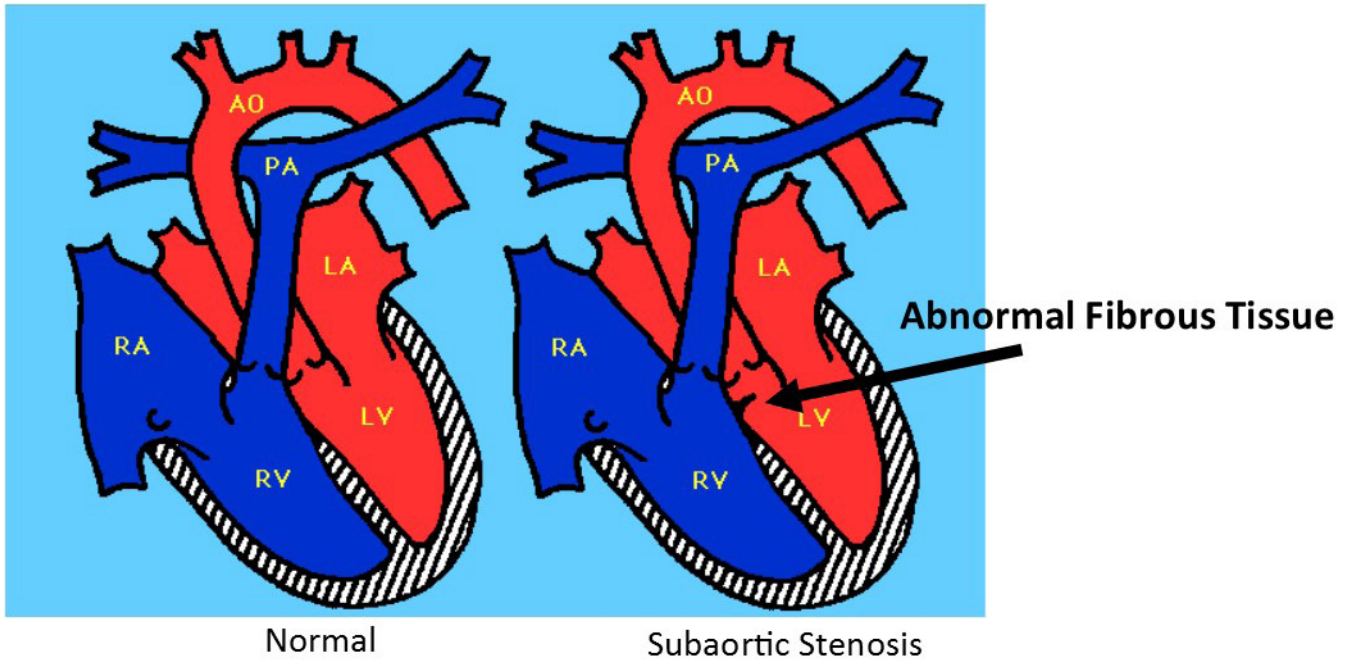




Subaortic Stenosis (SAS)



Subaortic Stenosis (SAS) is narrowing of the left ventricle just below the aortic valve. This narrowing is caused by the presence of an abnormal band of fibrous tissue and can be mild, moderate, or severe. SAS is a congenital defect, which means your pet was born with it. In many breeds it is inherited.

Over time SAS may result in increased pressure in the left ventricle which is required to push blood out the past the stenosis. Over time, the chronically elevated pressure in the left ventricle usually causes the heart muscle to thicken (hypertrophy).

Besides a heart murmur, affected dogs may show clinical signs ranging from mild panting and weakness to exercise intolerance. Fainting or collapsing episodes may occur with excitement or during exercise. Most dogs, even those with severe disease, show no signs most of the time. The worst possible sign is sudden death. Since some dogs with SAS can develop heart valve infections, preventative antibiotics should be given prior to surgery, dentistry, or in the case of wounds or infections.

Traditionally, beta blockers are used to treat dogs with SAS and increase longevity. This medication decreases the overall workload on the heart muscle by slowing the heart rate and reducing force of contraction with each beat.