

HOLTER & EVENT MONITORING



Holter monitors: This monitoring device allows for us to acquire a 24-48 hour continuous ECG. This ECG is analyzed in house for evidence of arrhythmias. Monitoring the rhythm for a 24 hour period is very important in determining if a patient needs therapy (antiarrhythmic medication or pacemaker implantation) and for monitoring the response to medical management. A Holter is placed by shaving hair on both sides of the chest. Sticky patches hold the electrodes in place. A vest is placed on the dog and the Holter device is held in a pouch on the top of the vest. The patient can go about normal activities while wearing a Holter (except for swimming or playing with other dogs as the other dog may chew the electrode). The owner is given a diary to record the activities of the day so that heart rate fluctuations noted in the Holter can be correlated to activity level.

Event monitor: These monitoring devices are used for patients that are having less frequent episodes and therefore the rhythm disturbance is not recorded on a Holter monitor. The placement of the device is similar to the Holter but it is worn for a longer period of time (1-2 weeks). There is an event button on the device so that the owner can activate the device during an event. That activation records the ECG before, during and after the activation. That ECG can be evaluated to determine if the event is caused by an arrhythmia.