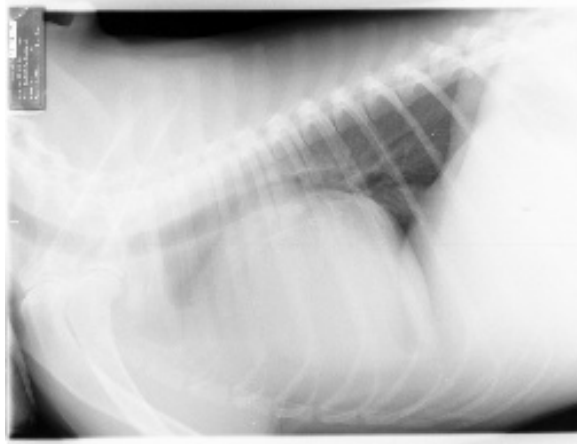
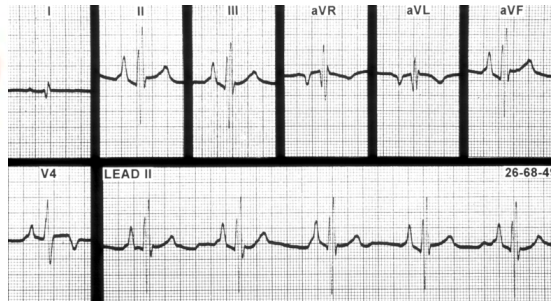


TRICUSPID VALVE DYSPLASIA



Tricuspid valve dysplasia is a congenital malformation of the tricuspid valve. This causes the valve to leak (tricuspid regurgitation) and sometimes to restrict blood flow through the valve (tricuspid valve stenosis). The malformation can be mild and therefore does not cause the pet any clinical concerns or be more severe and predispose the pet to right heart failure (fluid accumulation around the lungs or in the abdomen). If it is more severe and causes clinical signs, it can be managed for some period of time with medical management and sometimes periodic fluid removal. Tricuspid valve dysplasia is considered hereditary in many breeds and therefore pets with tricuspid valve dysplasia should not be bred and the lineage should be carefully examined. The murmur of tricuspid valve dysplasia can be very soft to absent so the best screening tool for breeding pets of breeds overrepresented for tricuspid valve dysplasia (like the Labrador retriever) is an echocardiogram.