

Heart Disease in Cats

Symptoms you may spot at home

Heart disease can be difficult to spot in cats as they are so good at hiding illness. However, you might spot some of these symptoms below.

Difficulty Breathing

Laboured or rapid breathing, especially during rest or mild activity.

Cold extremities

Paws may feel cold to touch.

Lethargy

May become lethargic or less active than usual.

Loss of Appetite

Heart disease can lead to a decreased appetite and weight loss.

Swollen Abdomen (Advanced Cases)

Fluid can accumulate in the belly giving a swollen appearance.

Hind Leg Paralysis

Sudden hind leg paralysis and severe pain due to blood clots.

Restlessness or Hiding Behaviour

Cats in distress may appear restless or seek hiding spots.

Fainting or Collapsing Episodes

Happens in some cases of cats with severe heart disease.

Pale, Blue or Greyish Gums (Severe Cases)

Due to inadequate oxygenation of the blood.

Cardiac Arrest

In some instances, heart disease can lead to sudden cardiac arrest, especially if the condition remains undiagnosed and untreated.

If you notice the above signs you should contact our veterinary practice straight away.

Bringing your cat for regular check-ups with one of our vets can help to spot heart disease and other conditions early. Our vets can listen to your cat's heart and arrange further tests. Book a check up for your cat today.



Maine Coons, Ragdolls, British Shorthairs, Sphynx and Persian cats have a higher predisposition to certain types of heart disease.

