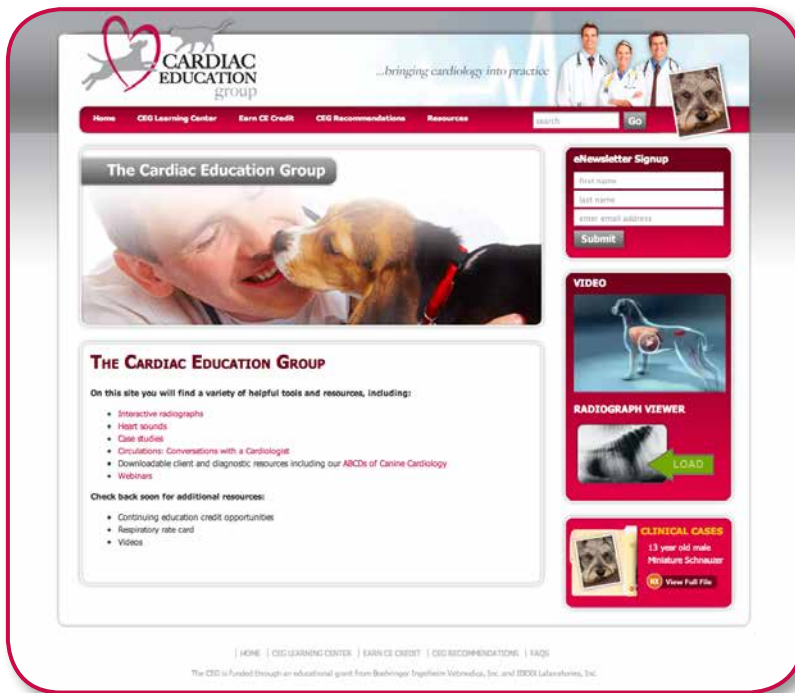


New radiograph viewer coming into focus

The radiograph viewer continues to be one of the most popular features on our website. Many of you have contacted us with suggestions on how we can make it even more helpful and user-friendly.

We appreciate your suggestions and are beginning to implement several of them. Keep an eye open for our redesign in May of 2013, which will make your interaction with the viewer more intuitive. The updated view also will be much more comprehensive, with radiographs of more companion animal species, breeds and diseases. Finally, we are adding several entirely new tools, such as a state-of-the-art vertical heart scale tool (VHS). This will include a demonstration showing how the tool works to determine VHS on the radiograph.

Remember, the reason we developed this radiograph viewer is to help make your job easier and your diagnoses more precise. We always welcome your questions, concerns and advice on how to make it even better. ■



CEG Members:

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Mobile Heart Health Tour

Participation and media coverage of our Mobile Heart Health Tours continue to be outstanding. These tours take leading veterinary cardiologists on the road to perform free heart health examinations, answer questions and distribute free literature. We have examined thousands of dogs in recent years and have detected many diseases in time for early treatment. We also have educated their owners about their important role they play in maintaining their pet's heart health.

Kicking off our 2013 Mobile Heart Health Tour will be a stop in Ft. McDowell Arizona for the Cavalier National Specialty on April 13th. Dr. Whit Church of the Cardiac Education Group will partner with Your Dogs Heart performing free heart auscultations.

Also planned for 2013 are stops in Colorado and the North East. Wrapping up the Mobile Heart Health Tour will be a stop in Carmel, California for Poodle Day. The event will take place on October 5th with Dr. Sonya Gordon (also of the Cardiac Education Group) performing free auscultations for the poodles in attendance.

Go to yourdogsheart.com for more information about the Mobile Heart Health Tour. ■



Cardiac Corner

- **Current information is the most valuable tool your clinic has available – and free information is even better. If you haven't already done so, bookmark our website, www.cardiaceducationgroup.org, and check back often. You can subscribe to upcoming issues of The Beat, check out new circulation articles and try our newly updated radiograph viewer.**
- **Are your colleagues and customers aware of the Million Heart Challenge sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc.? The company has generously volunteered to donate \$15,000 to the American College of Internal Veterinary Medicine to support canine cardiology research if it reaches one million clicks – but time is running out. Your support is as simple as visiting www.vetmedin.com/millionheartchallenge and clicking on the "Show Your Heart" button.**
- **Do you know that the first step in heart disease diagnosis can be as simple as identifying the breed? Find out which breeds are more susceptible to heart problems at www.yourdogsheart.com or www.yourcatsheart.com**
- **Tired of searching the Internet for the information you need? Be sure to bookmark the new website www.CardioDVM.com, the site design with your practice in mind. You will find all of our most-advanced tools, including heart sounds, our up-to-date radiograph viewer, case studies and more.**

Common Misconceptions About Congestive Heart Failure Series

Myth #4

If a small dog has an enlarged heart and a murmur, it has congestive heart failure (CHF).

Although the presence of heart disease can be confirmed if auscultatory abnormalities are present (for example, a heart murmur), CHF is not confirmed until clinical signs of exercise intolerance fatigue or fluid retention (for example, difficulty breathing) are diagnosed. Cardiac enlargement usually is present by the time heart disease progresses to heart failure, but in the early stage, cardiomegaly can be tricky to diagnose.

Heart size can be subjective, and hearts that look large for their chest cavities are common among small dogs. Vertebral heart scale measurements can help with diagnosis. These measurements "normalize" the heart size for the size of the dog. Even if the heart looks large, other clinical signs that suggest CHF are necessary before you can diagnose CHF. A dog with a heart murmur and a large heart on radiographs, but no clinical signs and no pulmonary infiltrates, has heart disease but not heart failure. ■