

Screening Boxers for heart disease can present a challenge as they frequently will have “innocent” or “flow” murmurs which, as the name suggests, are not related to any significant structural heart disease. However, Boxers are also predisposed to congenital heart disease including aortic valve stenosis and it is important to differentiate between dogs with flow murmurs and dogs with significant underlying heart disease. This cannot be done definitively on the basis of auscultation (listening with a stethoscope) and therefore we recommend that Boxers are screened by both auscultation and also echocardiography (ultrasound of the heart). Echocardiography is a safe and painless procedure that can be done without any sedation or anaesthesia.

Older Boxers are at risk of developing arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy and screening for this condition requires both echocardiography and also a 24 hour ambulatory ECG (Holter).

