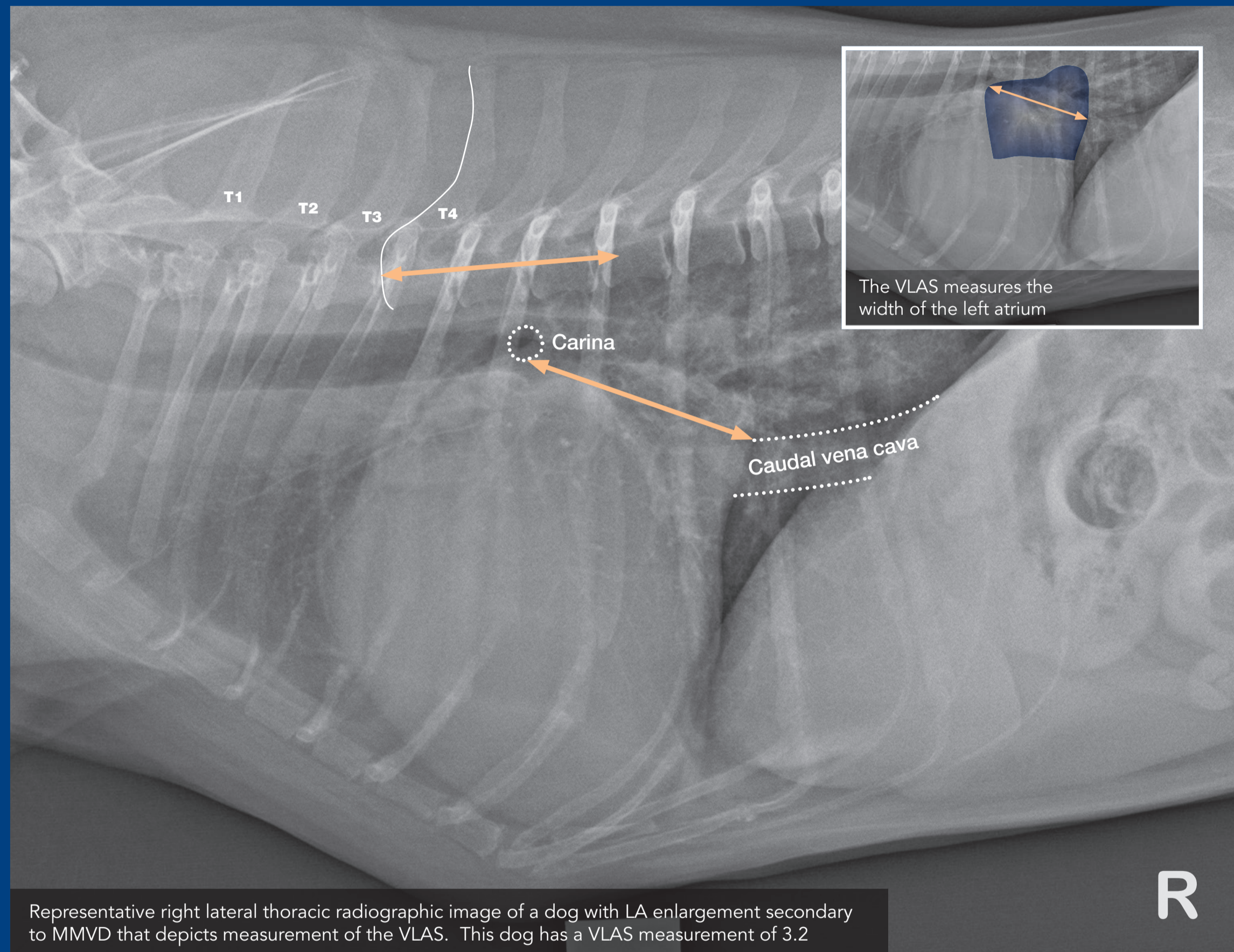


# VERTEBRAL LEFT ATRIAL SIZE (VLAS) TO IDENTIFY STAGE B2 MYXOMATOUS MITRAL VALVE DISEASE



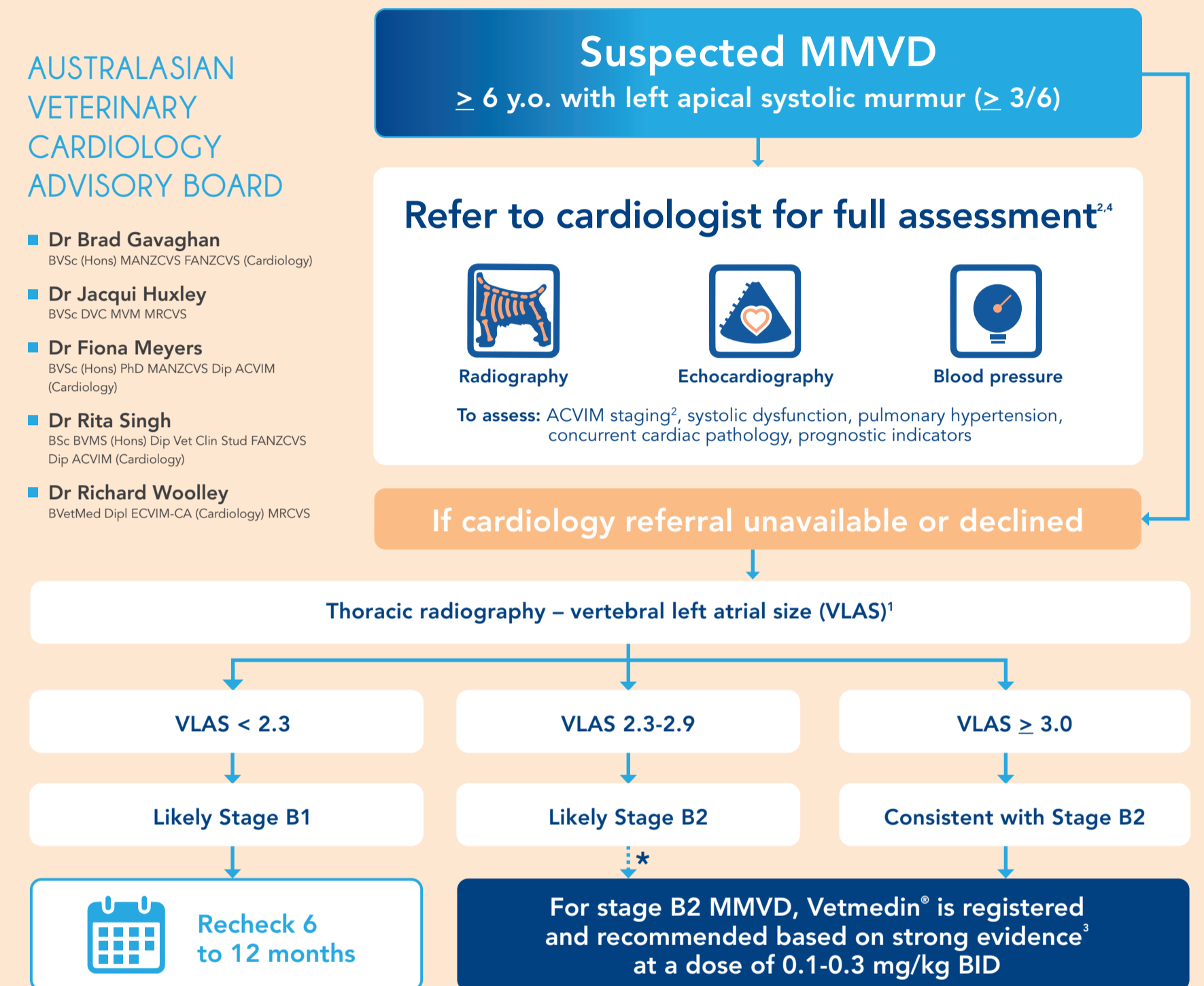
Representative right lateral thoracic radiographic image of a dog with LA enlargement secondary to MMVD that depicts measurement of the VLAS. This dog has a VLAS measurement of 3.2

## VLAS CALCULATION METHOD TO ASSESS FOR LEFT ATRIAL ENLARGEMENT<sup>1</sup>

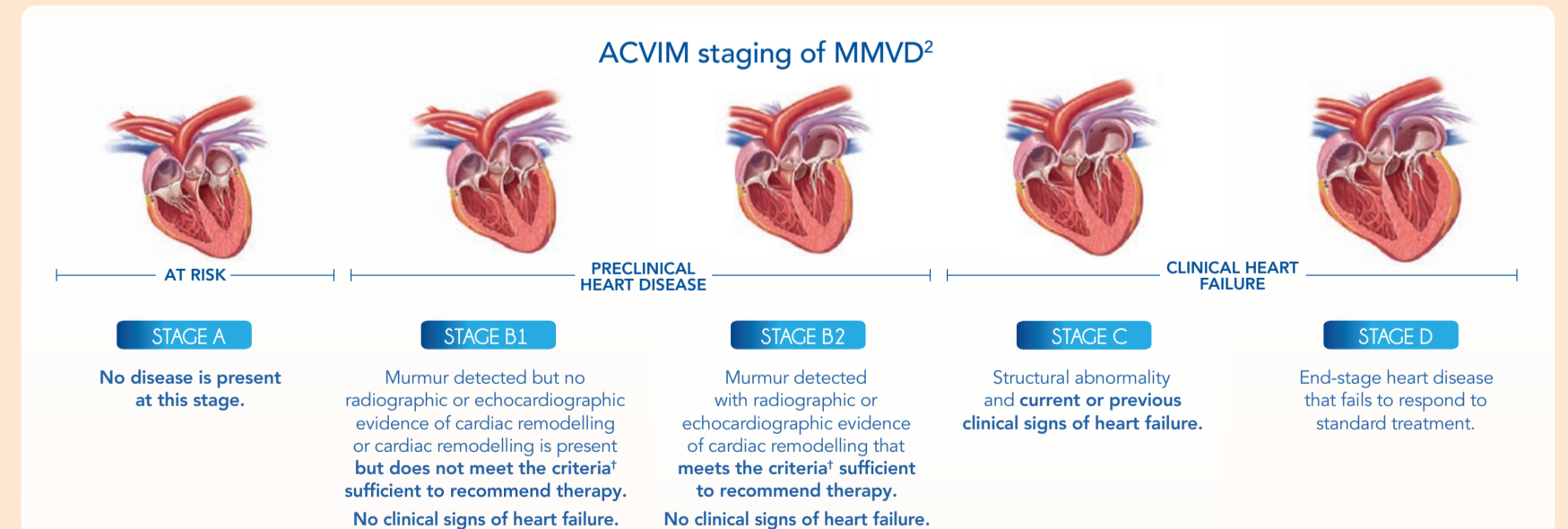
- 1 Obtain a lateral thoracic radiograph ensuring the thoracic vertebrae T4 to T8 are clearly visible and delineated.
- 2 Use a caliper to measure a line from the centre of the most ventral aspect of the carina (bifurcation of the left and right mainstem bronchi) to the most caudal aspect of the left atrium where it intersects with the dorsal border of the caudal vena cava.
- 3 Transfer the caliper measurement to produce a line of equal length beginning at the cranial edge of T4 and extending caudally just ventral and parallel to the vertebral canal.
- 4 The VLAS is defined as the length of the second line expressed in vertebral-body units to the nearest 0.1 vertebra.

Treatment of dogs with Stage B2<sup>2</sup> Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease (MMVD) with Vetmedin<sup>®</sup> can delay the onset of Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) and extend survival<sup>3</sup>

The following diagnostic algorithm has been developed by the Australasian Veterinary Cardiology Advisory Board to assist in the diagnosis of Stage B1 and Stage B2 MMVD.



\* This VLAS measurement range has reduced sensitivity and specificity for ACVIM Stage B2 diagnosis. The Australasian Veterinary Cardiology Advisory Board recommend veterinarians pursue diagnostic input from a cardiologist to assist with therapeutic decision-making.



<sup>1</sup> Ideally all the criteria from the EPIC study<sup>1</sup> should be met, but in the absence of echocardiographic measurements, clear radiographic evidence of cardiomegaly can be used to identify Stage B2.

The Australasian Veterinary Cardiology Advisory Board recommend Vetmedin<sup>®</sup> for dogs with Stage B2 MMVD.<sup>2,3</sup>



References: 1. Malcolm, E.L., et al. (2018) Diagnostic value of vertebral left atrial size as determined from thoracic radiographs for assessment of left atrial size in dogs with myxomatous mitral valve disease. *J Am Vet Med Assoc*, 253(8), 1038-1045. 2. Keene, B.W., et al. (2019) ACVIM consensus guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of myxomatous mitral valve disease in dogs. *J Vet Intern Med*, 53(3), 1127-1140. 3. Boswood, A., et al. (2016) Effect of Pimobendan in Dogs with Preclinical Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease and Cardiomegaly: The EPIC Study-A Randomized Clinical Trial. *J Vet Intern Med*, 50(6), 1765-1779. 4. Lefebvre, B.K., et al. (2016) Impact of collaborative care on survival time for dogs with congestive heart failure and revenue for attending primary care veterinarians. *J Am Vet Med Assoc*, 249(1), 72-6.   
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