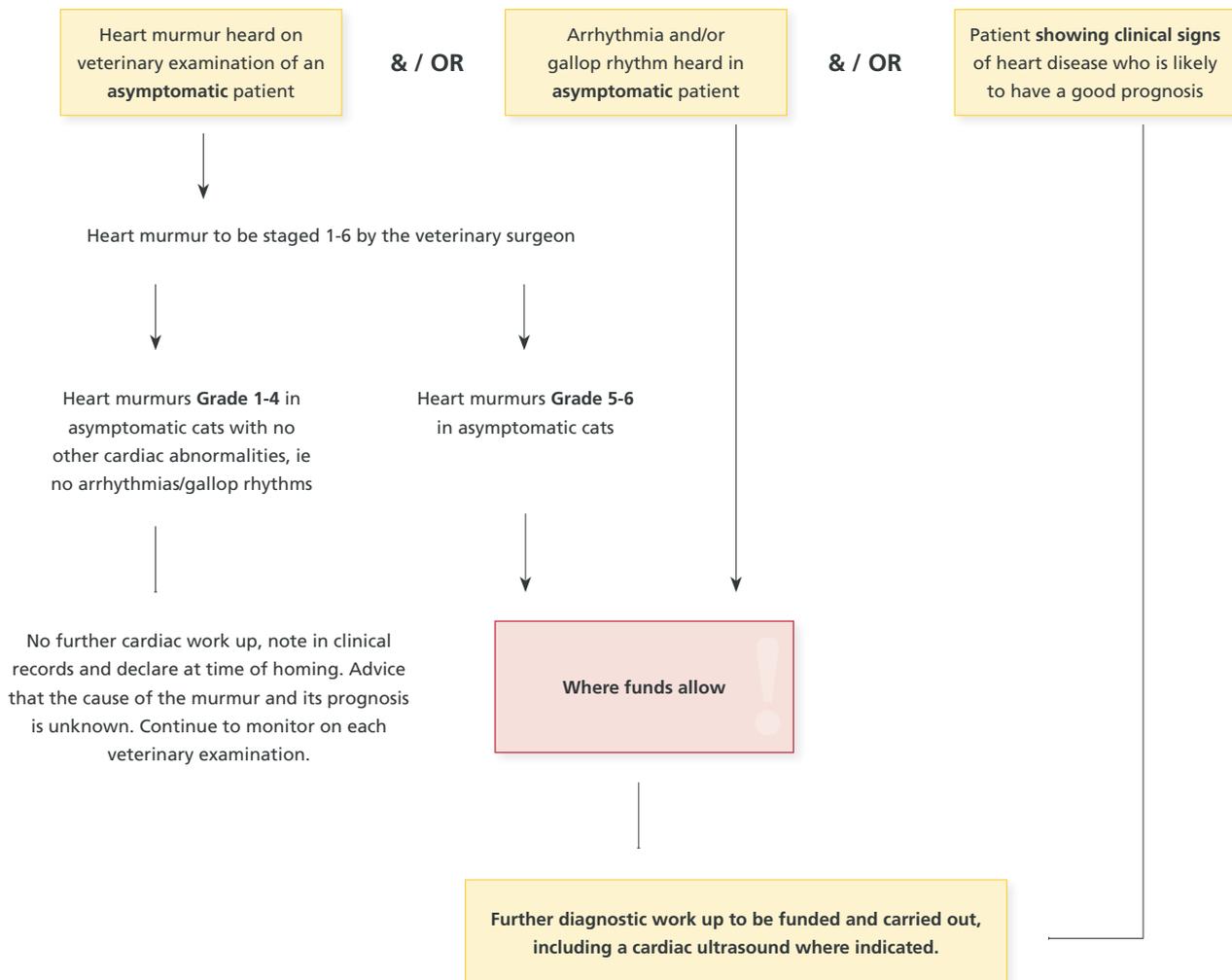




# Cats Protection's approach to heart murmurs in cats in care

Cats Protection frequently faces the dilemma of when to fund the costs of diagnostic workups for cats in its care in which heart murmurs have been detected. Certainly, heart murmurs are common in cats and costs of screening can markedly increase the costs associated with rehoming work. A recent study (Wagner and Fuentes et al, 2010) indicated a high prevalence of around 33% of cats in Cats Protection care having heart murmurs, only around 50% of those cats had any evidence of structural heart disease (the majority being mild), while around 25% of those cats without murmurs did have ultrasonographic findings of structural heart disease.



## Please note

Please note, a case-by-case approach will still be needed and there may be situations where deviation from the guidelines would be appropriate.

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) is currently offering reduced cost referral of cats in the care of Cats Protection which require echocardiography, as a result of a collaboration on a feline heart project.

Therefore, if echocardiography is recommended (in line with this guidance), branches and centres within a reasonable distance of the RVC's Queen Mother Hospital near Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, are encouraged to contact the Cats Protection Veterinary Department for further details.

Please phone 01825 741 991 or email [veterinary@cats.org.uk](mailto:veterinary@cats.org.uk) to find out more.