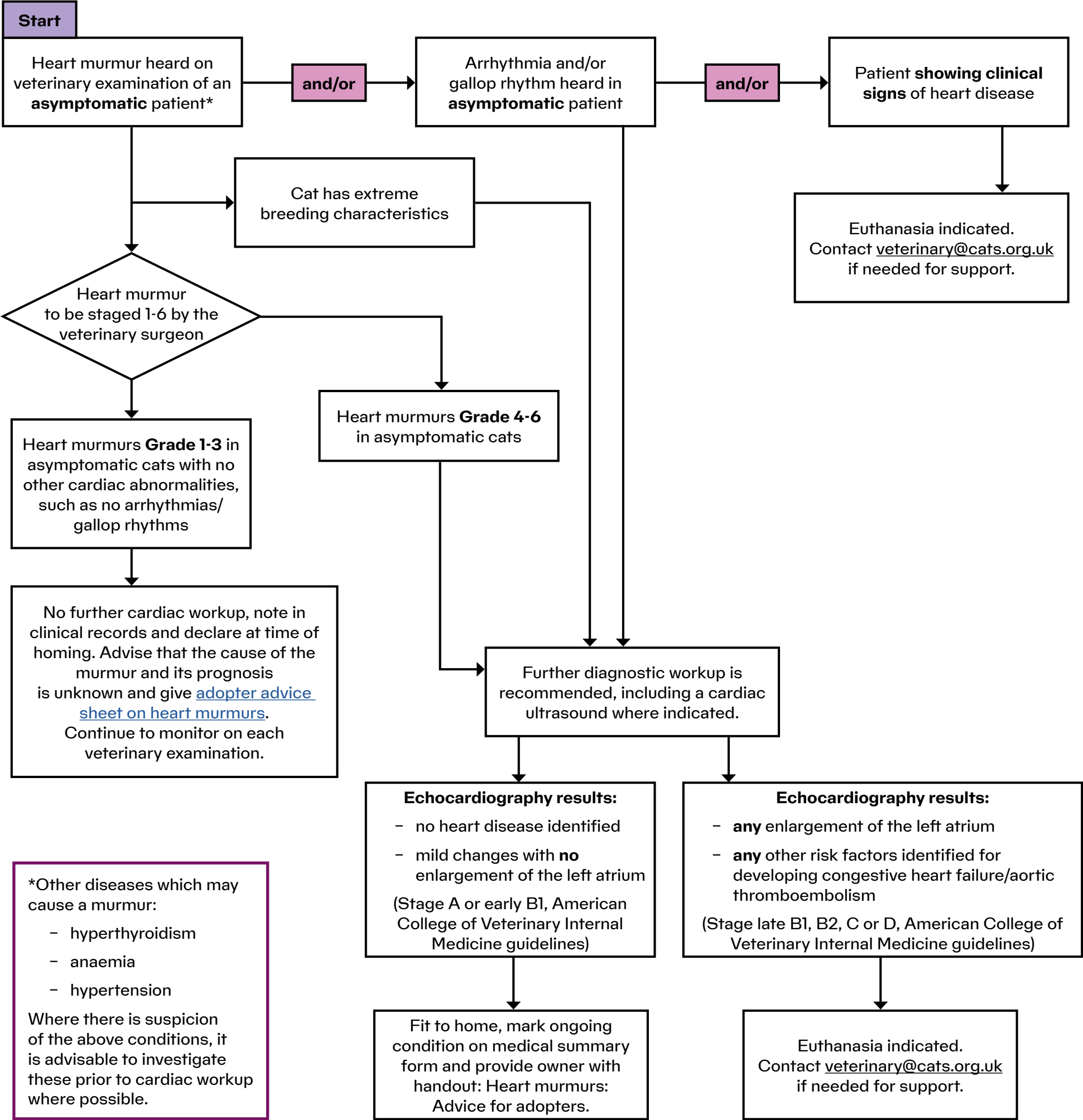


Cats Protection approach to heart murmurs in adult cats in care

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. Heart murmurs are common in cats and costs of screening can markedly increase the costs associated with rehoming work. A 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.

This map is intended to help you navigate a process journey, rather than answer a series of yes/no questions. As you move through the map, some statements will present more than one onward route. Where this happens, choose the pathway that best reflects the circumstances. For example, “Heart murmur is staged” could lead to either a Grades 1–3 or Grades 4–6 pathway, depending on the grading outcome.



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. Contact your Veterinary Officer at veterinary@cats.org.uk for further support.