Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM)
Condensed Version

Presentation:
- **DOGS**, 4-10 yo, Males >> Females, LARGE Breeds: Doberman Pinscher, Great Dane, Boxer
- **JUVENILE** onset: Portuguese Water Dog
- **Congestive Heart Failure (CHF):** Cough, tachypnea, dyspnea, exercise intolerance, abdominal distension, lethargy, inappetence, weight loss, syncope, collapse

Test(s) of choice:
- **Echocardiography:** LV eccentric hypertrophy, normal wall thickness, enlarged end diastolic dimensions, LA enlargement, incl. EPSS
- **ECG** – sinus tachycardia, P-mitrale, wide, tall or low voltage QRS, APCs or VPCs, atrial fibrillation
- Radiographs – Cardiomegaly, LA & LV enlargement, pulmonary edema, pleural effusion

Rx of choice:
- **Diuretics:** Reduce edema, effusion, Lasix
- **Dilators:** ACE inhibitors (enalapril), 2% nitroglycerin, Na-nitroprusside (dogs, severe CHF)
- **Low sodium diet,** rest, O₂, taurine, L-carnitine, exercise restriction
- **Positive inotropes:** Dobutamine, digoxin, pimobendan
- **Antiarrhythmics:** Beta blockers (Atenolol); Calcium channel blockers (Diltiazem)

Pearls:
- **Primary DCM:** Eccentric hypertrophy, impaired systolic function, +/- diastolic dysfunction

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**Classic Question(s)**

Name 4 breeds predisposed to DCM.

List 4 findings on an echocardiogram diagnostic of DCM.

List 4 radiographic findings suggestive of DCM.

List 4 etiologies of DCM.

Describe the treatment of DCM.

What are two presentations of DCM with the worst prognosis?