

## WHO WE ARE

Mighty Hearts Project was founded in 2017. We are a voluntary 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization ran by owners of dogs who have benefited from mitral valve surgical repair.

Each founding member has had a unique experience with their dog's diagnosis, pre-surgical treatment, intervention, post-surgical challenges, and recoveries. We feel passionately about bringing visibility to this surgery by sharing our knowledge and collective experiences with the world.

Our goal is to advance the care for dogs with MVD by collaborating with the world's top veterinarians and supporters alike to globally bring our families the most current research in palliative care treatments and updates on emerging successful techniques regarding mitral valve disease and repair.



**Disclaimer:** The information provided is for educational and informational purposes only and is not meant as a substitute for advice from a trained veterinarian or any other medical professional. Please do your own research and contact each clinic performing this repair surgery for the most up to date information.

## HOPE

We give hope to owners of dogs suffering with mitral valve disease from the inception of their animal's diagnosis, throughout their decision-making process on what type of care is best for their family, all the way through intervention if they should choose to take that path.

## SUPPORT

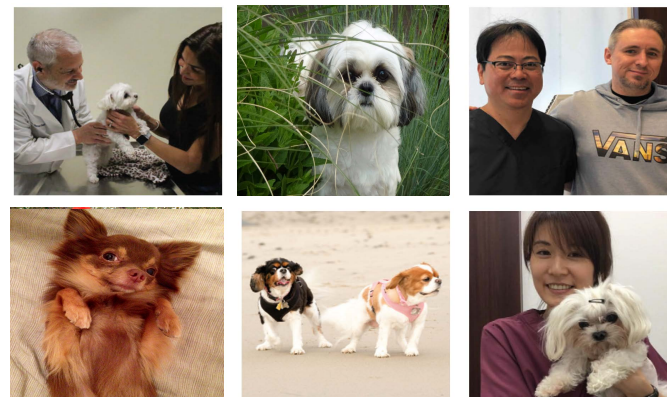
We provide a community of support and assistance for our members throughout the entire process. We provide the most up-to-date information and resources, so our members seeking support can make well informed decisions. We support emerging research on mitral valve disease and repair, sharing the best possible proven options for dog owners to make well informed decisions based off current available data.

## EDUCATION

We believe in educating owners about the most viable options for advanced treatment of canine mitral valve disease. We support bringing awareness to veterinary professionals about pioneer surgeon Dr. Masami Uechi's repair technique at the Jasmine clinic located in Yokohama, Japan and surgeries being performed throughout these clinics worldwide.

## ADVOCACY

Mighty Hearts Project advocates for dogs with mitral valve disease. We advocate alongside veterinary cardiologist who support mitral valve repair. As part of our advocacy, we attend veterinary lectures in hopes to spread awareness about this surgeries success to industry leading professionals.



[www.mightyheartsproject.org](http://www.mightyheartsproject.org)

## MVD OVERVIEW

Degenerative mitral valve disease is an acquired disease, responsible for 75% of all canine heart disease. It affects five to seven million dogs in the United States alone.

Degenerative mitral valve disease affects the mitral valve, a flap that is located on the left side of the heart between the atrium and the ventricle. This valve tissue tends to degenerate with age, gradually thickens, and losing its elasticity, is no longer impervious. This lack of closure leads to abnormal blood flow inside the heart, known as mitral regurgitation.

As the disease worsens, the chordae tendineae (cords) connecting the valve to the left ventricle may rupture. This complication can lead to pulmonary edema (a buildup of fluid in the lungs, making it difficult to breathe) and other complications that are detrimental to the dog's life. Large dogs also suffer from Mitral Valve Disease, although it is less common, and they are typically less ill than small dogs.

Without MVR surgical intervention, mitral valve disease is mostly a death sentence. Some pups live on medications for years, others sadly die within a matter of months. The disease is very unpredictable and treatment varies dog to dog.

For more information and a more detailed overview of the disease please visit our website at,

[www.mightyheartproject.org](http://www.mightyheartproject.org)

## INTERVENTION: MITRAL VALVE REPAIR SURGERY

The goal of MVR repair surgery is to wean dogs from their current medical treatments as well as lengthening their lifespans to their life expectancy inherent to their breed. JASMINE clinic's founder Dr. Masami Uechi is the creator of MVR surgery for dogs.



MVR surgery is performed in two parts with the use of the cardiopulmonary bypass machine. Surgeons first perform an annuloplasty of the mitral valve to draw the valve back down to a smaller size, enabling the valve's edges to form a better seal. Then surgeons replace any ruptured or stretched chordae tendinae with GoreTex sutures, helping tighten the mitral valve by improving contact between the valve's edges.

The entire procedure results in less leakage and a much improved, more efficiently functioning valve. Most dogs are able to come off of all or some of their heart medications as a result of the surgery.

We encourage you to read more details about the mitral valve repair surgery on our website at,

[www.mightyheartproject.org](http://www.mightyheartproject.org)

## MVR SURGERY OPTIONS

**Japan:** Dr. Masami Uechi (Pioneer of MVR surgery under bypass for dogs) performs mitral valve repair at his JASMINE Clinic in Yokohama, Japan, this is about 40 minutes outside of Tokyo. To have your dog considered for surgery please have your dog's cardiologist email your dog's latest blood tests, medical records, chest X-rays and echocardiogram images and videos to [jasmine.cardiology@gmail.com](mailto:jasmine.cardiology@gmail.com) for more information please visit our Jasmine page on our website, [mightyheartproject.org/jasmine](http://mightyheartproject.org/jasmine)

**England:** Dr. Dan Brockman performs mitral valve repair surgery at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in Brookmans Park, UK. This is a 40 minute drive from London Heathrow airport. To have your dog considered for surgery please have your dog's cardiologist email your dog's latest blood tests, medical records, chest X-rays and echocardiogram images and videos to [qmhaheartsurgery@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:qmhaheartsurgery@rvc.ac.uk). For more information please visit our RVC page on our website, [mightyheartproject.org/rvc](http://mightyheartproject.org/rvc)

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