

JACOBS VETERINARY CONSULTING GROUP, P.C.

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TO: Barbara Isaacs
FROM: Dr. Gil Jacobs
RE: Repo (4 -year-old Male Boxer)

Repo's Holter recording was excellent quality. 118,121 beats were recorded.

The minimum (45) and maximum (191) heart rates were within normal limits.

There were a total of 275 single (singlets) ventricular ectopic beats. (VPC)

Conclusion:

1. Repo has a higher number of ventricular ectopic beats than most normal dogs. In most breeds, we see less than 10 per 24 hours. In Boxers it is usually less than 50. Over 100 is considered abnormal.
2. However, we cannot conclude with certainty that Repo has so called "Boxer cardiomyopathy". Unless findings are extreme or symptoms develop, it is inappropriate to immediately diagnose cardiomyopathy. Findings must be confirmed and suspected affected individuals observed over time for evidence of progression.

Recommendations:

1. I do not recommend drug treatment for the heart rhythm problem yet.
2. The question on breeding in borderline cases like Repo is a personal decision. I cannot predict what will happen, if anything 2,3, or 4 years from now.
3. First, I recommend an ultrasound examination to look for evidence of structural changes in the heart.
4. Second, I would repeat the Holter in 3 months.
5. If the ultrasound is normal and the Holter results are not substantially different from this most recent one, I believe that breeding Repo is acceptable—but you should realize that some cardiologists would disagree with me. They are much more "stringent".

I have included examples of some of the recordings containing VPCs.

