

International Collaborative Study to Assess Cardiovascular Risk and Evaluate Long-term hEALth (REVEAL) in Cats with Pre-clinical Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Apparently Healthy Cats

Journal:	<i>Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine</i>
Manuscript ID	JVIM-SA-17-261.R3
Wiley - Manuscript type:	Standard Article
Keywords (You can enter any word desired, do not have to use from the list):	Feline < Species, Cardiomyopathy < Cardiology < Cardiovascular, survival, Heart Failure < Cardiology < Cardiovascular, Thromboembolism < Cardiology < Cardiovascular, Clinical Epidemiology < Clinical Trials

1 **International collaborative study to assess cardiovascular Risk and Evaluate**

2 **Long-term hEALth (REVEAL) in cats with pre-clinical hypertrophic**

3 **cardiomyopathy and apparently healthy cats**

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8 **Key words:** Asymptomatic; Arterial thromboembolism; Congestive heart failure;
 9 Epidemiology; Incidence; Outcome; Survival

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11 Abbreviations:

12
 13 AH apparently healthy cats
 14 APCs atrial premature complexes
 15 ATE arterial thromboembolism
 16 bpm beats per minute
 17 CHF congestive heart failure

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18	DLH	domestic longhair
19	DLVOTO	dynamic LV outflow tract obstruction
20	DSH	domestic shorthair
21	EFS	event-free survival
22	HCM	nonobstructive form of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
23	HOCM	obstructive form of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
24	HCM/HOCM	combined HCM and HOCM cohort
25	IQR	interquartile range
26	LAFB	left anterior fascicular block
27	LV	left ventricular
28	LVOTO	LV outflow tract obstruction
29	NA	not estimatable
30	PES	post-event survival
31	RBBB	right bundle branch block
32	RV	right ventricular
33	SAM	systolic anterior motion of mitral valve
34	SD	sudden death
35	SBP	systolic arterial blood pressure
36	VPCs	ventricular premature complexes

Acknowledgments: We thank Mary Perricone and April Jackson, for technical assistance during this study. The work was done at institutions and practices by each author. Preliminary results were presented at the 2013 ACVIM Forum, Seattle, Washington.

Conflict of Interest Declaration: This study was funded by the Morris Animal Foundation and Winn Feline Foundation.

Off-label Antimicrobial Declaration: Authors declare no off-label use of antimicrobials.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or Other Approval Declaration: Authors declare no IACUC or other approval was needed.

1
2
3 **Abstract**
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5 **Background:** Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is the most prevalent heart disorder in cats
6
7 and principal cause of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. Yet, the impact of pre-
8
9 clinical disease is unresolved.
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12 **Hypothesis/Objectives:** Observational study to characterize cardiovascular morbidity
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14 and survival in cats with pre-clinical nonobstructive (HCM) and obstructive (HOCM)
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16 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and in apparently healthy cats (AH).
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19 **Animals:** 1,730 client-owned cats (430 pre-clinical HCM; 578 pre-clinical HOCM; 722
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21 AH).
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24 **Methods:** Retrospective multicenter, longitudinal, cohort study. Cats from 21 countries
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26 were followed through medical record review and owner or referring veterinarian
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28 interviews. Data were analyzed to compare long-term outcomes, incidence, and risk for
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30 congestive heart failure (CHF), arterial thromboembolism (ATE), and cardiovascular
31
32 death.
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35 **Results:**
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38 During the study period, CHF, ATE or both occurred in 30.5% and cardiovascular death
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40 in 27.9% of 1,008 HCM/HOCM cats. Risk assessed at 1, 5, and 10 years after study
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42 entry was 7.0%/3.5%, 19.9%/9.7%, and 23.9%/11.3% for CHF/ATE, and 6.7%, 22.8%,
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44 and 28.3% for cardiovascular death, respectively. There were no statistically significant
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46 differences between HOCM compared to HCM for cardiovascular morbidity or mortality,
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48 time from diagnosis to development of morbidity, or cardiovascular survival. Cats that
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50 developed cardiovascular morbidity had short survival (mean \pm standard deviation,
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3 75 1.3±1.7 years). Overall, prolonged longevity was recorded in a minority of pre-clinical
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5 76 HCM/HOCM cats with 10% reaching 9-15 years.
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8 77 **Conclusions and Clinical Importance:**
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10 78 Pre-clinical HCM/HOCM is a global feline health problem that carries substantial risk for
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12 79 CHF, ATE, and cardiovascular death. This underscores the need to identify therapies
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14 80 and monitoring strategies that decrease morbidity and mortality.
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For Peer Review

100 Introduction

101 Cardiomyopathies are the principal cause of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality
102 in cats,¹⁻⁶ and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is the most common of these disorders.⁶⁻²⁹
103 Although the majority of affected cats are assumed to remain pre-clinical (i.e., free of
104 clinical signs), a proportion experiences serious complications, chief among which are
105 congestive heart failure (CHF), arterial thromboembolism (ATE), and sudden cardiac
106 death (SD).^{2,5,7-9,15-20,25,26,28} Certain breeds including Maine Coon, Ragdoll, British
107 shorthair, Sphynx, Chartreux, Persian, Domestic Shorthair, and Norwegian Forest Cats
108 are predisposed to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, suggesting a heritable basis in these
109 populations.^{10-12,24,29,41-49} Despite the fact that this disease is widely recognized, risk of
110 attendant cardiovascular complications is unknown, and the natural history of pre-
111 clinical feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy remains unresolved.

112 Many phenotypic and clinical characteristics of feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy,
113 including a highly variable disease course, closely resemble those reported in
114 humans.^{2,7-9,15,21-26,28,29} Whereas the obstructive form of the disease (HOCM) in
115 humans is a major determinant of negative outcome including progressive
116 cardiovascular disability,³⁰⁻³⁹ equivalent risk has not been established in affected cats.
117 Nevertheless, by inference drawn from data in humans, the notion has lingered that
118 HOCM confers a similar negative prognosis in cats and, by extension, signifies a target
119 for pharmacotherapy.⁴⁰

120 Descriptions of cardiovascular complications in cats with hypertrophic
121 cardiomyopathy have originated predominantly from single-site referral centers.<sup>5,7,9,17-
122 20,25,26,28,29</sup> Although informative, such results tend to concentrate severely affected
123 cases and are subject to tertiary center referral bias. This can lead to overstating

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3 124 adverse outcomes and fosters the impression that the disease is dominated by
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5 125 pessimistic outcome.³⁷ Furthermore, combining pre-clinical and heart failure patient data
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7 126 limits risk estimation and prognosis for cats having only pre-clinical disease.^{5,7,9,14,17,26,28}
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10 127 Thus, to understand the natural history of pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy,
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12 128 we conducted a long-term multicenter, epidemiologic study to evaluate large cohorts of
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14 129 affected and nonaffected cats in many different countries around the world. This
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17 130 approach permitted us to identify and compare incidence and risk for cardiovascular
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19 131 morbidity, mortality, and survival characteristics among these populations.
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22 132 **Materials and Methods**

23 133 **Study Design**

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27 137 The “international, collaborative, multicenter study to assess cardiovascular Risk and
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29 138 EValuate long-term hEALth (REVEAL) in feline pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
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31 and apparently healthy cats” was a retrospective, longitudinal, cohort study. An ethical
32 139 review committee granted approval where required. Investigators were board-certified
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34 140 veterinary cardiologists, or in countries without a certification process, focused on
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36 141 specialty cardiology practice. Each study site had a searchable echocardiographic and
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38 142 medical record database permitting detailed review and long-term health follow-up.
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44 144 **Cats**

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46 145 Cat populations included pre-clinical obstructive (HOcm) and nonobstructive (HCM)
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48 146 forms of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and apparently healthy cats (AH). The term pre-
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50 147 clinical denoted a physical condition characterized by lack of clinical signs or
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52 148 manifestations, and would be referred to as “asymptomatic” in human medicine. All AH
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3 149 were examined by echocardiography, had an unremarkable medical history, no known
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5 150 illness, and had a normal physical examination findings without gallop heart sounds at
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7 151 the point of study entry. Some had been examined by echocardiography due to
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9 152 presence of a systolic heart murmur, but those with a systolic heart murmur, trivial mitral
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11 153 or tricuspid valve regurgitation, or dynamic right ventricular (RV) outflow tract
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13 154 obstruction were included, provided that the echocardiogram was otherwise normal.
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17 155 **Inclusion Criteria.** Medical records were searched for cats diagnosed with pre-
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19 156 clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (both HCM and HOCM) as well as apparently
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21 157 healthy cats free of cardiomyopathy, the health outcomes of which could be ascertained
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23 158 for at least 5 years after initial diagnosis. Archived echocardiographic images were
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25 159 examined to confirm diagnosis and measurements. Study entry represented the date
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27 160 when echocardiographic examination was first made.
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31 161 **Exclusion Criteria.** Cats were not included in the study if echocardiograms were of
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33 162 non-diagnostic quality, or if any of the following conditions were diagnosed at or before
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35 163 study entry: CHF, ATE, syncope, heartworm disease, systemic arterial hypertension
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37 164 (defined as acute neurologic signs or retinal changes consistent with systemic
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39 165 hypertension, or when measured systolic arterial blood pressure [SBP] \geq 180 mmHg),
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41 166 hyperthyroidism, anemia, renal disease (either serum creatinine concentration above
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43 167 laboratory reference range, urine concentrating ability deemed to be inadequate, or
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45 168 proteinuria), cardiomyopathy other than hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, congenital heart
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47 169 disease, or any underlying medical disease judged to be capable of limiting life
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49 170 expectancy. All cardiovascular medications prescribed before or at study entry were
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51 171 recorded, but were not considered as exclusion criteria.
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172 **Study Sites**

173 Investigators worked at 49 veterinary centers in 21 countries: 22 centers in 17 states
174 of the United States of America (California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas,
175 Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio,
176 Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin); 4 in Italy; 3 in Germany; 2 each in Canada
177 and Japan; and, 1 each in Austria, Belgium, Brazil, England, France, Hungary, Ireland,
178 Israel, Mexico, Taiwan, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and
179 Switzerland.

180 **Echocardiography**

181 Investigators were instructed to enter cats that had diagnostic-quality 2-dimensional,
182 color flow Doppler, and M-mode echocardiographic examinations performed in
183 accordance with published standards.^{8,49-51} Diagnosis was based upon information from
184 all available tomographic views including right parasternal long-axis 4-chamber, long-
185 axis inflow-outflow, and short-axis views, and left apical views. Cardiac measurements
186 were made from 2-dimensional echo-guided M-mode images from right parasternal
187 short-axis views by most investigators or, using 2-dimensional echocardiography by
188 several investigators. Left ventricular (LV) hypertrophy was diagnosed when the thickest
189 end-diastolic interventricular septal, LV free wall segment or both measured ≥ 6 mm.⁸
190 The obstructive form (HOCM) was defined for this study as LV hypertrophy with systolic
191 anterior motion of the mitral valve (SAM), coupled with diffuse LV outflow tract
192 turbulence and peak systolic outflow velocity ≥ 2.5 m/sec. Cases were not stratified
193 according to LV outflow tract gradient. Dynamic RV outflow tract obstruction was
194 designated when maximal RV outflow tract velocity was > 1.6 m/sec.⁵²

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Data Collection and Outcomes Assessment

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198 Cats for which first diagnosis was made between November 2001 and January 2011

199 were assessed during the study period which extended between January 2010 and

200 January 2016. Data collection forms were used by investigators to record pertinent

201 demographic and health information. This data included age at diagnosis, breed, body

202 weight, laboratory and echocardiographic information, physical examination and

203 laboratory findings, arrhythmias (assessed from ECG recording or from simultaneous

204 ECG trace during echocardiographic examination), whether cardiovascular medications

205 were prescribed, and outcomes (CHF, ATE, and cardiovascular death). Outcomes

206 assessments were made by study investigators based upon consideration of all

207 available clinical data. Serum thyroxine and creatinine concentrations and SBP results

208 that were recorded closest to date of diagnosis were included, but were not available for

209 every case. Cardiovascular mortality was designated as death associated with CHF,

210 ATE, euthanasia because of these complications, or sudden death (SD). Sudden death

211 was defined as unanticipated death with absence of clinical signs or illness within 24

212 hours of last being observed healthy, or occurring at least 7 days after resolution of

213 CHF.⁸ Morbidity and mortality dates were recorded from medical records. When this

214 data was not available, information was obtained from the pet owner or attending

215 veterinarian interview, assisted by a medical questionnaire with standardized questions

216 related to cardiovascular and non-cardiac morbidity and mortality. Survival was

217 calculated from initial diagnosis to date of death, last recorded examination, or last

218 contact.

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Statistical Analysis

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222 Power calculation to estimate study population size was guided by results of prior studies,^{7,9}
223 and a planned 5-year minimum follow-up period. Based upon these assumptions, 250 cats with
224 pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and 250 AH were considered to provide 80% power to
225 detect a difference in survival proportions between pre-clinical cardiomyopathy compared with
226 AH, with a significance level (alpha) of 0.05.

227 Baseline descriptive statistics are reported as mean and standard deviation for normally
228 distributed variables and median (interquartile range [IQR]) for non-normally distributed
229 variables. The normality of the residuals was judged by visual inspection. Between-groups
230 analyses of baseline variables were performed using analysis of variance (ANOVA) or Kruskal-
231 Wallis tests as appropriate according to the distribution of residuals, using Holm-Sidak or
232 Dunn's test post-hoc analyses, respectively, when indicated. Analyses for proportions of
233 categorical variables were performed using a Chi-Square or Fisher's Exact analysis, as
234 appropriate. Univariate time-to-event survival analyses were performed using Kaplan Meier
235 product limit estimates where survival range was presented if median survival was not reached
236 and statistical differences among strata were determined by log-rank test. Time-to-event
237 survival time analyses represented time from diagnosis to end-date. End-date was defined as
238 first instance of death, cardiovascular morbidity, or being lost to follow-up, depending upon the
239 analysis. Patients remaining alive or lost to follow-up at study completion were right-censored. A
240 generalized linear model was used to calculate incidence for the entire population and cohort
241 level by age quartile expressed as rates as per 1,000 cat years, employing a Poisson
242 distribution. Proportion at risk was calculated using Kaplan Meier analysis. Patient population
243 survival variables were clinically defined and survival time was further assessed at 1, 5, and 10

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3 244 years after initial diagnosis, respectively. Death type or comorbidity type was censored after 1,
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5 245 5, and 10 years, respectively, allowing for a cross-sectional view of the respective time points.
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7 246 Duration of event-free survival (EFS) comprised the time interval from the date of study entry to
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9 247 the date of first cardiac morbidity (CHF or ATE). Post-event survival (PES) comprised the time
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11 248 from the date of first CHF or ATE morbidity to cardiac death from CHF, ATE, or SD. Additional
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13 249 analyses included stratification at age quartile determined by age at diagnosis. Due to varied
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15 250 study enrollment and study end dates, mean between-cohort survival times estimated by
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17 251 univariate Kaplan Meier method were used to calculate time to event for EFS and PES, and
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19 252 compared by ANOVA. All analyses were carried out with SAS 9.4 (Cary, NC 2016) and deemed
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21 253 significant at $P<0.05$.
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25 254 **Results**

26 27 255 28 29 256 ***Population Characteristics at Time of Diagnosis***

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32 257 One-thousand seven-hundred thirty cats fulfilled entry criteria; 1,008 (58.3%) had
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34 258 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy comprising 430 (24.9%) HCM and 578 (33.4%) HOCM;
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36 259 and, 722 (41.7%) were AH (Table 1). Apparently healthy cats were younger (median,
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38 260 4.9 years; range, 0.5-21 years) than HCM (median, 7.4 years; range, 0.5-20 years;
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40 261 $P<0.001$) and HOCM (median, 5.7 years; range, 0.5-19 years; $P<0.013$); HOCM were
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42 262 younger than HCM ($P<0.001$). Ages recorded in 1,006 of 1,008 HCM/HOCM cats
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44 263 clustered predominantly at 1-5 years and 5-11 years, but the proportion markedly
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46 264 decreased after 11 years of age (Figure 1). Twenty-seven percent were ≥ 10 years of
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48 265 age and 10 % were 13-20 years of age. Body weight in HCM and HOCM cats did not
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50 266 differ ($P=0.095$), but was slightly higher compared to AH cats (both $P<0.001$; Table 1).
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55 267 The overall study population included 34 breeds, most commonly Domestic Shorthair,
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3 268 Main Coon Cat, Persian, Domestic Longhair, and Norwegian Forest Cat (Table 1,
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5 269 Figure 2). Less commonly represented breeds included Abyssinian, American Shorthair,
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8 270 Bengal, Birman, Bombay, British Shorthair, Burmese, Chartreux, Cornish Rex, Devon
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10 271 Rex, Egyptian Mau, European Shorthair, Exotic Shorthair, Havana Brown, Himalayan,
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12 272 Manx, Oriental Shorthair, Pixie-bob, Ragdoll, Russian Blue, Scottish Fold, Selkirk Rex,
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14 273 Siamese, Somali, Sphynx, Turkish Angora, and Turkish Van. The prevalence of both
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16 274 intact and neutered males was significantly higher in HCM and HOCM than AH.
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19 275 Comparing HCM and HOCM cohorts, the proportions of intact males and neutered
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21 276 males did not differ significantly ($P = 0.303$ and $P = 0.589$, respectively). The proportion
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23 277 of neutered females did not differ significantly between HCM and HOCM ($P = 0.480$).
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25 278 Intact females represented a very small proportion of HCM and HOCM compared with
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28 279 AH cats (Table 1).

30
31 280 Systolic heart murmurs were detected commonly (Table 2). Murmur prevalence was
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33 281 higher in HCM/HOCM (82.4%) than AH (46.4%; $P < 0.001$). Moderate to loud (grade 3-5/6)
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35 282 systolic murmurs were more common in HCM/HOCM (58.8%) than AH (14.8%; $P < 0.001$),
36
37 283 and in HOCM (74.9%) compared to HCM (37.2%) cats ($P < 0.001$), respectively. Soft
38
39 284 systolic murmurs (grades 1-2/6) were more common in AH (31.6%) than HCM/HOCM
40
41 285 (23.6%) cats ($P < 0.001$). Dynamic RV outflow tract obstruction was recorded in 43 (10%)
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43 286 HCM cats (of which 39 had soft to moderately loud systolic murmurs), and in 80 (13.8%)
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45 287 HOCM cats. Gallop sounds were recorded in 48 (11.2%) HCM compared with 40 (6.9%)
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47 288 HOCM cats ($P = 0.025$). Heart rate (median; IQR) during physical examination at study entry
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49 289 was lower in AH (180; 167-200 beats per minute [bpm]) compared to HOCM (190; 170-210
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3 290 bpm; $P=0.001$), but did not differ between HCM (186; 167-202 bpm) and AH ($P=0.676$), or
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5 291 between HCM and HOVM ($P=0.164$).

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7 292 Arrhythmias were recorded in 128/1,008 (12.7%) HCM/HOVM cats. These included
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9 293 supraventricular tachycardia (n=4), atrial fibrillation (n=6), atrial premature complexes
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11 294 (APCs, n=17), isolated ventricular premature complexes (VPCs, n=73), and 1 cat each
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13 295 with ventricular bigeminy and non-sustained ventricular tachycardia. Bradyarrhythmias
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15 296 included first-degree atrioventricular block (n=2) and high grade atrioventricular block
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17 297 (n=2). Conduction abnormalities detected from ECG recordings included left anterior
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19 298 fascicular block (LAFB) in 16 (4 HCM, 12 HOVM), right bundle branch block (RBBB;
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21 299 n=4) and 1 cat each with ventricular pre-excitation and left bundle branch block.
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23 300 Arrhythmias recorded in 30 (4.2%) AH were isolated VPCs (n=22), LAFB (n=5), and
24
25 301 RBBB (n=3).

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27 302 Systolic blood pressure (median; IQR) did not differ among AH (140; 120-150 mm
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29 303 Hg), HCM (140; 120-150 mm Hg), and HOVM (135; 120-150 mm Hg; $P=0.168$) cohorts.

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31 304 One or more cardiovascular drugs (beta-adrenoceptor blockers, angiotensin
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33 305 converting enzyme inhibitors, diltiazem hydrochloride, aspirin, or clopidogrel) were
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35 306 prescribed in 52.3% HCM and 78.2% HOVM ($P<0.001$), but not in AH. No additional
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37 307 information regarding dosage, compliance, or duration was recorded.
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47 309 ***Incidence and Risk for Cardiovascular Morbidity and Mortality***

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51 311 Cardiovascular morbidities were recorded in 307 (30.5%) of 1,008 HCM/HOVM cats
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53 312 comprising 361 events and in 7 (0.97%) AH (Table 3). The proportion of CHF events did
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3 313 not differ between HCM (106/430) and HOCM (138/578; $P=0.834$), nor did ATE events
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5 314 differ in HCM (41/430) compared to HOCM cats (76/578; $P=0.094$). Similarly, HCM and
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7 315 HOCM did not differ with respect to time from study entry to development of CHF
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9 316 ($P=0.216$) or ATE ($P=0.188$; Figure 3). The proportion of syncopal events was not
10
11 317 different between HCM ($n=9$, 2.1%) and HOCM ($n=14$, 2.4%; $P=0.838$). Syncope was
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13 318 recorded in 2 (0.28%) AH.

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17 319 **Incidence.** The incidence of CHF, ATE, SD and all-cardiovascular death events per
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19 320 1,000 cat years for each cohort was delineated by quartiles corresponding with age at
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21 321 the time when events occurred (group 1, < 2.5 years; group 2, 2.5-5.6 years; group 3, >
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23 322 5.6-10 years; group 4, >10 years; Table 4). In the HCM/HOCM population, CHF
24
25 323 incidence was 24.8% higher in cats > 10 years of age compared to cats < 2.5 years of
26
27 324 age (68.1 events versus 51.2 events per 1,000 cat years, respectively). The incidence
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29 325 of ATE increased from the first to the third age quartile (from 22.5 to 32.7 events per
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31 326 1,000 cat years, respectively), and then decreased sharply to 18.4 events per 1,000 cat
32
33 327 years in cats > 10 years of age. Incidence of cardiovascular death was 57.1 events per
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35 328 1,000 cat years for cats < 2.5 years of age, and was unchanged (57.7 events per 1,000
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37 329 cat years) between 2.5 to 5.6 years of age. A higher incidence of cardiovascular death
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39 330 was recorded in older age quartiles. In contrast, the overall incidence of CHF or ATE in
40
41 331 AH at initial diagnosis was 1.6 and 1.3 events per 1,000 cat years, respectively.

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45 332 **Risk.** The risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality for HCM, HOCM, and
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47 333 HCM/HOCM cohorts increased progressively at 1, 5, and 10-year intervals after study
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49 334 entry, as well over age quartiles (Table 5, Figure 4). Of the 1,008 cats with pre-clinical
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51 335 HCM/HOCM, the risk for CHF and ATE morbidity and all-cardiovascular death was
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3 336 approximately 3 times greater at 5 years compared with 1 year after initial diagnosis.
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5 337 Overall, the risk of all-cardiovascular death for HCM/HOCM was approximately 1 in 15,
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7 338 1 in 4.4, and 1 in 3.5 as calculated at 1, 5, and 10-year time points, respectively. Overall
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9 339 risk of all cardiovascular death in AH was 1 in 100 (Table 5, Figure 4).
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14 341 ***Survival Analyses- Mortality***

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19 343 Cardiovascular death was recorded in 281 (27.9%) of 1,008 HCM/HOCM cats (115
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21 344 of 430 with HCM [26.7%], 166 of 578 with HOCM [28.7%]; Table 3). Sudden death
22
23 345 comprised 22 of these 281, a 2.2% prevalence in the 1,008 cats. Seven deaths were
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25 346 attributed to cardiovascular death in the 722 AH (1.0%). Cardiovascular survival
26
27 347 (median, range) was significantly shorter in HCM/HOCM (10.9 years; 3 days-3.1 years)
28
29 348 than AH (not estimatable [NA] due to low event rate; 6 days-14.1 years; $P<0.0001$;
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31 349 Figure 5). The oldest 10% of surviving HCM/HOCM cats at study end were 9 to 14.7
32
33 350 years of age. Cardiovascular survival was not significantly different between HCM (10.9
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35 351 years; 2 days-12.5 years) and HOCM (NA; 3 days-13.1 years) over time ($P=0.873$;
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37 352 Figure 6). Furthermore, no significant difference was found between HCM and HOCM
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39 353 populations for the overall proportion of cardiovascular death ($P=0.535$), proportion of
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41 354 cardiovascular death associated with CHF ($P=0.834$), and proportion of cardiovascular
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43 355 death associated with ATE ($P=0.118$). The proportions of SD did not differ between
44
45 356 HCM and HOCM cats ($P=0.960$). Time (median, IQR) from study entry to SD did not
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47 357 differ significantly between HCM (1,290 days; 304-2176 days) and HOCM (1156; 457-
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49 358 1777 days; $P=0.676$). Furthermore, time from onset of CHF or ATE morbidity to
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3 359 cardiovascular death did not differ between HCM and HOCM populations ($P=0.489$ and
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5 360 $P=0.578$, respectively; Figure 7). Cardiovascular survival did not differ significantly
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7 361 among age quartiles within HCM ($P=0.206$) or in HOCM ($P=0.796$) populations.
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9
10 362 Cardiovascular survival did not differ significantly between HCM cats that had SBP
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12 363 measured compared to HCM cats that did not have SBP measured ($P=0.085$); HOCM
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14 364 cats that had SBP measured compared to HOCM cats that did not have SBP measured
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17 365 ($P=0.255$); HCM compared to HOCM that had SBP recorded ($P=0.476$); or between
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19 366 these cohorts that did not have SBP recorded ($P=0.609$). In addition, cardiovascular
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21 367 survival did not differ significantly between HCM/HOCM cats that had serum thyroxine
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23 368 concentrations measured compared to HCM/HOCM cats that did not have serum
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26 369 thyroxine concentrations measured ($P=0.263$). Cardiovascular survival in HCM/HOCM
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28 370 cats did not differ significantly between those prescribed or not prescribed ≥ 1
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31 371 cardiovascular medications at study entry ($P=0.845$).
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35 373 ***Time to Event, Event-Free and Post-Event Survival Analysis***

37 374 ***Time to Event.*** Congestive heart failure and ATE morbidities occurred individually or
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40 375 together. In HCM: CHF occurred without ATE in 90 cats (median, 57 days; range, 2-
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42 376 2,954 days); ATE occurred without CHF in 25 cats (median, 370 days; range, 5-3,993
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44 377 days); and, both CHF and ATE occurred in 16 cats (concurrently in 10 cats [median,
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46 378 513 days; range, 4-3,353]; ATE preceded CHF in 3 [1,775, 2,384, and 3,334 days]; and
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48 379 CHF preceded ATE in 3 [1,178, 1,316, and 2,409 days]). In HOCM: CHF occurred
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51 380 without ATE in 98 cats (median, 1,017 days; range, 4-4,029 days); ATE occurred
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54 381 without CHF in 36 cats (median, 1,081 days; range, 1-2,518 days); and both CHF and
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3 382 ATE were recorded in 40 cats (concurrently in 20 [median, 790 days; range, 11-2,151
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5 383 days]; ATE preceded CHF in 14 [median, 1,184 days; range, 3-2,980 days]; and CHF
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7 384 preceded ATE in 6 [median, 933 days; range, 177-2,075 days]). In AH: CHF occurred
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9 385 without ATE in 5 cats (median, 1,633 days; range, 841-2,749 days, both CHF and ATE
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11 386 developed in 1 cat, and ATE occurred without CHF in 4 cats (median, 1,760 days;
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13 387 range, 387-2,819 days). Two of the 5 AH with CHF without ATE had developed
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15 388 hyperthyroidism.
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19 389 **Event-Free Survival.** Of the 1,008 HCM/HOCM cats, 307 (30.5%) developed CHF,
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21 390 ATE or both, whereas 281 (27.9%) experienced cardiovascular death (22 of the 281
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23 391 [7.8%] were SD). Event-free survival was calculated for the 259 cats that died from
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25 392 CHF, ATE or both. Of these 259 cats, 140 (54.1%) died or were euthanized on the day
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27 393 of their first recorded CHF or ATE morbidity, whereas 119 (45.9%) cats survived past
28
29 394 the day of recorded morbidity and subsequently died of their cardiovascular disease.
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31 395 Event-free survival (mean \pm standard deviation) did not differ significantly between the
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33 396 cohort of 140 cats (2.9 ± 2.2 years) compared to the cohort of 119 cats (2.4 ± 2.11
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35 397 years; $P= 0.101$; Figure 8).
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40 398 **Post-Event Survival.** Post-event survival (the time from onset of CHF or ATE to
41
42 399 cardiovascular death) calculated for the 119 cats that survived > 1 day after CHF or
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44 400 ATE had occurred was 1.3 ± 1.7 years, significantly shorter than both the EFS for this
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46 401 cohort ($P<0.0001$), and for EFS of the cohort of 140 cats that died on the day of their
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48 402 first cardiovascular morbidity ($P< 0.0001$; Figure 8). Moreover, PES in these 119 cats
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50 403 did not differ significantly with respect to age quartiles ($P=0.402$) or between HCM and
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52 404 HOCM cats that comprised this cohort ($P=0.364$).
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DISCUSSION

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8 407 REVEAL is the first international, collaborative, epidemiologic study to evaluate pre-
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10 408 clinical feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and AH. Intending to identify and compare
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12 409 long-term cardiovascular incidence, risk, and survival, REVEAL documented the natural
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14 410 history of cats living in geographically diverse environments, in 21 countries, and across
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16 411 5 continents. In this population, the incidence of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality
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18 412 in affected cats was substantial. Of the cohort of 1,008 HCM and HOCM cats, nearly
19
20 413 one-third developed CHF, ATE, or both and slightly more than one-quarter experienced
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22 414 cardiovascular death. In contrast, cardiovascular death occurred in 1% of AH. Pre-
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24 415 clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy therefore may be regarded as a global disease
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26 416 that confers reasonably high risk and denotes a major negative prognostic indicator for
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28 417 cardiovascular mortality.

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33 418 Notably, cardiovascular morbidity, mortality, and survival did not differ significantly
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35 419 between obstructive (HOCM) and nonobstructive (HCM) forms of feline hypertrophic
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37 420 cardiomyopathy, reinforcing that the clinical impression that dynamic LV outflow tract
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39 421 obstruction (LVOTO) is not a predictor of adverse outcome.^{16,18} This finding diverges
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41 422 from the idea that LVOTO carries high risk for progressive heart failure and the cardiac
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43 423 debilitation that characterizes HOCM in human patients.^{30,34-39}

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47 424 Reports comparing cardiovascular survival between pre-clinical feline HCM and
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49 425 HOCM have been sparse, conflicting, and confined to small cohorts.^{8,17} The REVEAL
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51 426 study demonstrated no significant difference in cardiovascular morbidity or survival
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53 427 between HCM and HOCM and should thus help resolve this debate. In reality, the

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3 428 notion that HOCM conferred proportionately higher risk was shaped by the dominance
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5 429 of human literature reporting poor outcomes associated with LVOTO and increased
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7 430 gradients.³⁰⁻³² Echocardiography played an important role in this observation. Its
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9 431 introduction by the early 1970s simplified detection and characterization of
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11 432 cardiomyopathy in human patients, and was paralleled a decade later in veterinary
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13 433 medicine. In addition, echocardiography facilitated recognition of systolic anterior motion
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15 434 of the mitral valve (SAM) and LVOTO, characteristics of the obstructive form (HOCM) of
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17 435 this disease. Insofar as common clinicopathologic features shared by humans and cats
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19 436 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy were known,^{2,4,8,15,21} and in the absence of epidemiologic
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21 437 data in cats, dynamic LVOTO became regarded as a target variable for therapy in
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23 438 veterinary medicine.^{17,40} Our study contributes a fresh clinical perspective to the natural
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25 439 history of pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and counters this former perception.

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31 440 One possible explanation why clinical outcomes did not differ significantly between
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33 441 populations with obstructive (HOCM) and nonobstructive (HCM) disease in our study is
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35 442 that these designations may represent more of a functional continuum than distinct,
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37 443 separate entities. In humans affected with the nonobstructive form (HCM), a proportion
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39 444 will develop LVOTO from SAM, mid-ventricular contact or both after physiologic
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41 445 challenge induced by drugs or exercise. This finding the concept that hypertrophic
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43 446 cardiomyopathy is predominantly a disease of LV outflow tract obstruction.³³ Indeed, the
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45 447 fact that LVOTO can be provoked in the cat⁶ lends endorsement for this hypothesis. It
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47 448 also adds an element of ambiguity to the classification of this disease. If LVOTO was
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49 449 provoked as a result of stress-induced sympathetic tone during echocardiographic
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51 450 examination, such cats would be categorized as “obstructive” (HOCM), and yet may
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3 451 have been nonobstructive (HCM) under normal or baseline living conditions. In other
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5 452 cases, the rapid heart rate and relatively small LV end-systolic chamber of cats can
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7 453 challenge the detection of SAM, or render uncertain the distinction between obstructive
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10 454 and nonobstructive forms of this disease. Thus, SAM could have been present but
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12 455 missed in some cats diagnosed with the nonobstructive (HCM) form.
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15 456 The REVEAL study found that CHF incidence increased slightly from youngest to
16
17 457 oldest age, whereas ATE incidence increased up through the third age quartile, but
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19 458 became less common after the age of 10 years. The incidence of cardiovascular death
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21 459 was highest in cats > 5.6 years of age. Risk for CHF, ATE, and cardiovascular death
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23 460 increased over time and age. Moreover, the risk of cardiovascular death for each age
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25 461 quartile was progressively higher at 5 and 10 years compared to 1 year after diagnosis
26
27 462 for each age quartile. In AH the risk of cardiovascular death was only 1%. In pre-clinical
28
29 463 HCM and HOCM, sudden death was substantially lower in our present study than
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31 464 described from mixed pre-clinical and clinical feline populations.^{8,9,18,25,28} Sudden death
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33 465 is a well-known manifestation of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in humans, especially in
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35 466 high risk sub-groups.³⁷⁻³⁹
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40 467 Early onset of pre-clinical HCM or HOCM, defined as occurring in cats < 1 year of
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42 468 age was approximately 3% in the HCM/HOCM cohort in our study. Other reports of
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44 469 early onset vary widely based upon cut-off values used to define LV end-diastolic wall
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46 470 thickness.^{10,12,24,28,48} Age of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy associated with
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48 471 cardiovascular death has been reported in certain breeds, including young, highly
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50 472 inbred Maine Coon cats, particularly in litters where affected individuals were mated.²⁴
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52 473 In addition, Ragdoll cats homozygous for the MYBPC3 R820W mutation died at a
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3 474 younger age and cardiovascular survival was shorter compared to heterozygous or wild
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5 475 types,⁴³ and onset of CHF before 1 year of age has been observed in this breed.^b
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8 476 Others have reported that the age at which cardiovascular morbidity developed was
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10 477 younger in Maine Coon than Persian, DSH, Sphynx, and Chartreux breeds combined.²⁸
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12 478 Pre-clinical HCM/HOCM in our study was diagnosed most commonly between 1 and
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14 479 11 years of age, and the proportion decreased sharply thereafter. Others have reported
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16 480 wide age variability from pooled pre-clinical and clinically affected populations.^{7-9,12,18,}
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18 481 ^{25,26,53}

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21 482 Of the HCM/HOCM cats that developed CHF or ATE, the mean EFS did not exceed
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23 483 3 years. Also, EFS did not differ significantly between HCM and HOCM populations.
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26 484 Thus, once affected cats developed cardiovascular morbidity, the trajectory of PES from
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28 485 onset of clinical signs to cardiovascular death was rapid, averaging just 1.3 years.

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31 486 Although hypertrophic cardiomyopathy has been held to presage decreased
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33 487 survival, REVEAL found that a proportion of affected cats survived into their second
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35 488 decade. Similar findings have been reported in selected pedigrees in which nearly one-
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37 489 third were 10 to 15 years of age and approximately 5% were > 15 years of age.²⁸ This
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39 490 finding indicates that pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy can be compatible with
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41 491 normal life expectancy. Prolonged survival with this condition has been increasingly
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43 492 reported in affected humans.³⁷

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47 493 The HCM/HOCM population's high male prevalence, dominated by neutered males,
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49 494 was similar to previously reported male predilection rates of between 63 to
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51 495 79%.^{7,9,13,17,18} Heart murmurs were common in both AH as well as HCM/HOCM cats.
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54 496 Similar findings have been reported by others.^{4,5,9,13,16-18,26-28} The true prevalence of
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3 497 heart murmurs in AH is uncertain, however, because reported prevalence likely is
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5 498 affected by referral bias. The comparatively higher prevalence of heart murmurs and
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7 499 louder grades of murmurs in cats with HOCM may have provided an opportunity during
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10 500 physical examination to detect heart disease earlier compared to cats with HCM,
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12 501 accounting for the slightly younger HOCM cohort. Arrhythmias were detected at study
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14 502 entry in approximately 13% of pre-clinical HCM/HOCM and 4% of AH. Others have
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16 503 reported arrhythmias from mixed pre-clinical and decompensated cohorts.^{5,7-9,13,16,25,28}

19 504 The pervasiveness of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in the general feline population
20
21 505 is unknown. Estimation of disease has inherent limitations including small sample size,
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23 506 single-site data source, selection and referral bias, skewed age and breed composition,
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25 507 and diagnostic verification. Additional weaknesses are imposed by lack of veterinary
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27 508 consensus guidelines for echocardiographic measurement technique and diagnostic
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29 509 cut-off values. Within this context, prevalence of feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy has
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31 510 been reported. When investigators applied >5.5 mm or >6 mm diagnostic cut-off values
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33 511 and different measurement techniques to a cohort of 92 cats screened by
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35 512 echocardiography, prevalence ranged from 12%-51% in this cohort.²⁷ Prevalence
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37 513 reported by others using ≥ 6 mm cut-off was 14.7% in 780 cats screened at rehoming
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39 514 shelters in southeastern England,¹³ 14.6% in 103 cats screened in western Virginia,⁶
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41 515 and 8.3% of 144 cats screened in Switzerland.¹⁰ Two additional studies using ≥ 5.5 mm
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43 516 cut-off reported 8.5% in 329 British shorthair cats in Denmark¹² and 25% in 53
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45 517 Norwegian Forest cats screened in London.⁴⁶ Recently, echocardiographic reference
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47 518 ranges based upon allometric scaling have been proposed.⁵⁴

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3 519 United States pet ownership surveys identify steady growth in the feline pet
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5 520 population, estimating 74 million cats in 2012^c and 94.2 million cats between 2017-
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7 521 2018.^d Recently, estimates of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy prevalence in humans
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9 522 suggests that approximately 1 out of 200 individuals (0.5%) is genetically affected,⁵⁵
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11 523 with a substantial proportion being genetically positive but phenotypically negative. If the
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13 524 prevalence of feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy were conservatively extrapolated at
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15 525 0.5% based upon findings reported in humans,⁵² upwards of 470,000 cats could be
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17 526 affected in the United States of America. Alternatively, if 8% prevalence was inferred
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19 527 based upon the lowest reported veterinary estimate that applied an echocardiographic
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21 528 cut-off value ≥ 6 mm,¹⁰ approximately 7.5 million cats could be affected in the United
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23 529 States of America alone.

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28 530 Our study has some limitations. Study cases originated from referral centers, and
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30 531 therefore demographics could have been subject to referral bias. However, the large
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32 532 study populations encompassing wide and varied geographical regions may have
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34 533 diminished this effect. Apparently healthy cats were significantly younger compared to
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36 534 HCM and HOCM cohorts. Arterial blood pressure, creatinine, and T4 data were
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38 535 available for a substantial number of cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Close
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40 536 attention was paid to the medical history and physical examination in order to exclude
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42 537 any cases with clinical findings indicative of systemic illness or disease. However, some
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44 538 cats with subclinical azotemia, increased serum thyroid hormone concentration, or
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46 539 increased SBP, may have been missed and inadvertently included in the HCM/HOCM
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48 540 cohort. In such cases, it was not possible to verify whether left ventricular hypertrophy
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50 541 was associated solely with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, with abnormal loading
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3 542 conditions, or was present in conjunction with comorbidities. In HCM/HOCM cats ≥ 10
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5 543 years of age representing greater age-related risk for comorbidities, SBP and or
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7 544 creatinine data were available in approximately 85%, and T4 data were available in
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9 545 approximately half of the cases. Although the REVEAL study found that pre-clinical
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11 546 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and associated cardiovascular morbidity and death are
12
13 547 global feline health issues, it did not test for potential regional differences in
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15 548 cardiovascular incidence and risk. In diagnosing hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and AH,
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17 549 cardiac status was based upon a single initial echocardiographic examination
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19 550 designating the point of study entry. Potential remodeling over time was not assessed,
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21 551 but theoretically could have affected outcome or diagnosis in some cases, or been
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23 552 affected by age-related penetrance of the hypertrophic cardiomyopathic phenotype. The
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25 553 thickest LV wall segment was selected to diagnose LV hypertrophy, but may not by
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27 554 itself have represented the pathophysiologic and clinical heterogeneity of this disease.
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29 555 Echocardiograms were not reviewed centrally, which would have exceeded financial
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31 556 and logistical resources. Nonetheless, echocardiographic diagnoses were reviewed by
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33 557 board-certified cardiologists or veterinarians who practice cardiology. Systolic anterior
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35 558 motion of the mitral valve and LVOTO could have been over-diagnosed in some cats in
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37 559 response to stress-induced exaggerated systolic chamber function, and such cats may
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39 560 not have had SAM and LVOTO under normal home conditions. Response to
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41 561 provocative measures were not considered as a diagnostic criterion in our study, but
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43 562 may have induced SAM and LVOTO in some cats exposed to these measures.
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45 563 However, such procedures are not currently performed as part of routine, standard
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47 564 echocardiographic examination in cats. Cats with HOCM were not subcategorized
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3 565 based upon estimated LV outflow tract gradient. Thus, it was not possible to determine
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5 566 whether a subset of cats with high gradients is at higher cardiovascular risk. Although
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7 567 we attempted to exclude cats with known underlying diseases in preclinical hypertrophic
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9 568 cardiomyopathy and AH cohorts, some may have had undiagnosed or pre-clinical
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11 569 conditions. A standardized medical questionnaire was used to aid data collection when
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13 570 interviewing clients and referring veterinarians, but some details may have been
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15 571 incorrectly remembered or missed. Assessment of treatment compliance and potential
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17 572 drug effects was not possible in this retrospective study.
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24 574 **Conclusions**

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26 575 Data from the REVEAL study demonstrates that pre-clinical feline hypertrophic
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28 576 cardiomyopathy is a global health concern that imposes considerable risk for CHF and
29
30 577 ATE morbidity, and substantially impacts cardiovascular health over time. Indeed,
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32 578 cardiovascular morbidities were recorded in nearly one-third and cardiovascular-related
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34 579 death occurred in approximately 30% of the 1,008 cats with HCM and HOCM. There
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36 580 was no statistically significant difference between obstructive (HOCM) and
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38 581 nonobstructive (HCM) forms of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy regarding cardiovascular
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40 582 morbidity or mortality, time from diagnosis to development of morbidity, or
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42 583 cardiovascular survival. Collectively, these epidemiologic data highlight cardiovascular
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44 584 risks associated with pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and underscore the
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46 585 need to identify and develop health care and treatment strategies that optimize
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48 586 monitoring, decrease risk, and improve outcome.
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Figure Legends

589 Figure 1. Age distribution for 1,006 of the 1,008 cats with obstructive and nonobstructive
590 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy recorded at the time of diagnosis. In 2 cats age was not
591 recorded.

592 Figure 2. Most prevalent breeds in feline study populations. HCM, nonobstructive
593 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; HOCM, obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

594 Figure 3. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating percentage of 430 cats with
595 nonobstructive (HCM) compared to 578 cats with the obstructive (HOCM) form of
596 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy that have not yet experienced morbidity (Y-axis) from
597 congestive heart failure (top) or arterial thromboembolism (bottom) against time (X-
598 axis).

599 Figure 4. Percentage of 1,008 cats with nonobstructive (HCM, n=430) and obstructive
600 (HOCM, n=578) hypertrophic cardiomyopathy at risk for cardiovascular mortality, by age
601 quartile when diagnosed and assessed 1, 5, and 10 years following study entry. Q, age
602 quartile; Yrs., years

603 Figure 5. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating percentage of 1,008 cats with
604 nonobstructive (HCM, n=430) and obstructive (HOCM, n=578) forms of hypertrophic
605 cardiomyopathy that have not yet experienced cardiovascular death (Y-axis) compared
606 with 722 AH against time (Y-axis). NA, median not estimatable.

607 Figure 6. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating percentage of 430 cats with
608 nonobstructive (HCM) compared to 578 cats with the obstructive form (HOCM) of

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3 609 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy that have not yet experienced cardiovascular death (Y-
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5 610 axis) against time (X-axis). NA, median not estimatable.
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9 611 Figure 7. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating the percentage of 430 cats with
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11 612 nonobstructive (HCM) compared to 578 cats with obstructive (HOCM) hypertrophic
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13 613 cardiomyopathy that have not yet experienced cardiovascular death (Y-axis) for
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15 614 congestive heart failure (A), or arterial thromboembolism (B) against time (X-axis). NA,
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17 615 median not estimatable.
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21 616 Figure 8. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating the event-free survival (EFS)
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23 617 proportion and post-event survival (PES) proportion (Y-axis) against time (X-axis). EFS
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25 618 Group-A comprised a cohort of 140 cats with pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
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27 619 who died on the day of their first recorded CHF/ATE morbidity. EFS Group-B comprised
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29 620 a cohort of 119 cats with pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy who survived more
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31 621 than one day following their first recorded CHF/ATE morbidity. PES was calculated for
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33 622 these 119 cats. * P=0.101; ** P<0.0001; SD, standard deviation.
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41 624 **Table Legends**

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44 625 Table 1: Demographic characteristics of feline study populations.
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47 626 Table 2: Prevalence of systolic heart murmurs in feline study populations.
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49 627 Table 3: Cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in feline study populations.
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52 628 Table 4: Incidence of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality events per 1,000 cat years
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55 629 grouped by age when diagnosed.
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3 630 Table 5: Risk of cardiac morbidity and death assessed at 1, 5, and 10 year intervals
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Peer Review

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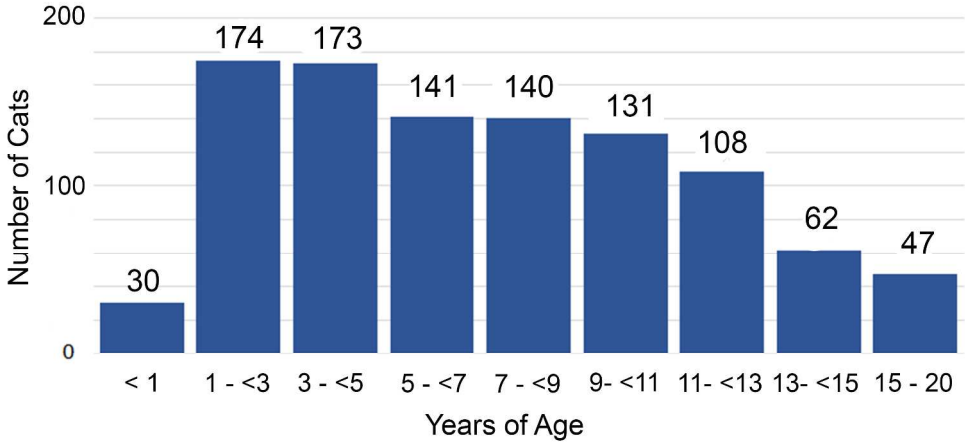


Figure 1: Demographic characteristics of feline study populations.

Peer Review

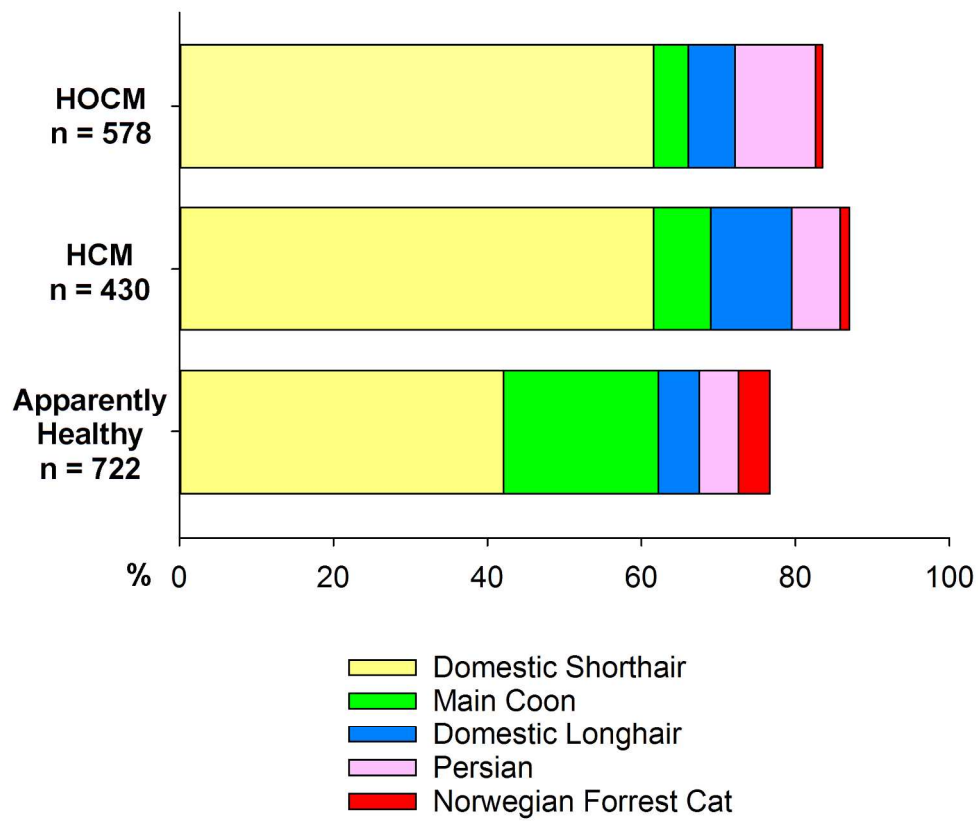


Figure 2. Most prevalent breeds in feline study populations. HCM, nonobstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; HOCM, obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

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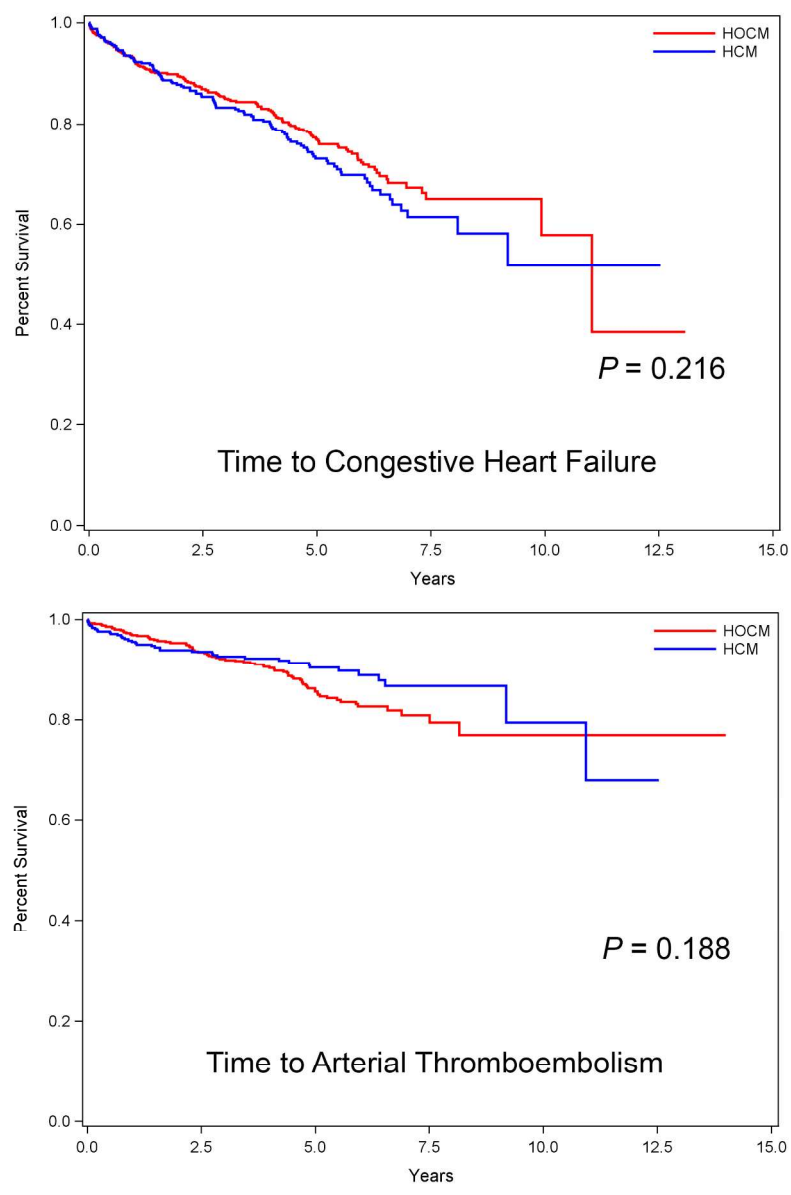


Figure 3. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating percentage of 430 cats with nonobstructive (HCM) compared to 578 cats with the obstructive (HOCM) form of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy that have not yet experienced morbidity (Y-axis) from congestive heart failure (top) or arterial thromboembolism (bottom) against time (X-axis).

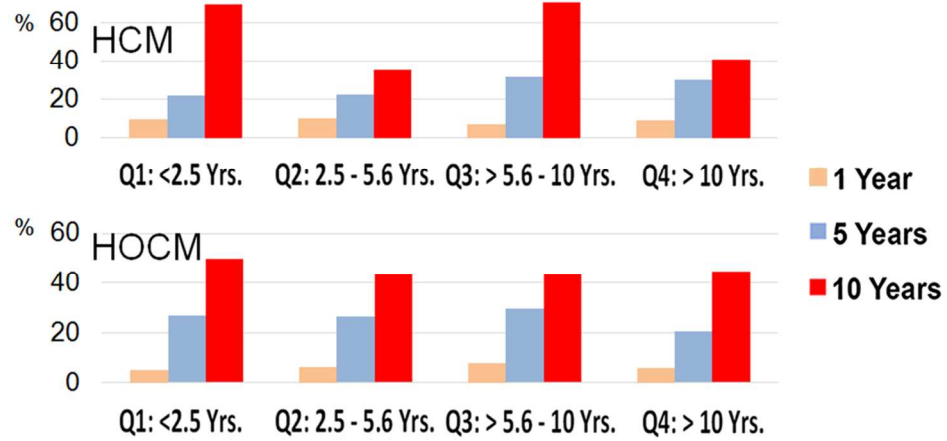


Figure 4. Percentage of 1,008 cats with nonobstructive (HCM, n=430) and obstructive (HOCM, n=578) hypertrophic cardiomyopathy at risk for cardiovascular mortality, by age quartile when diagnosed and assessed 1, 5, and 10 years following study entry. Q, age quartile; Yrs., years

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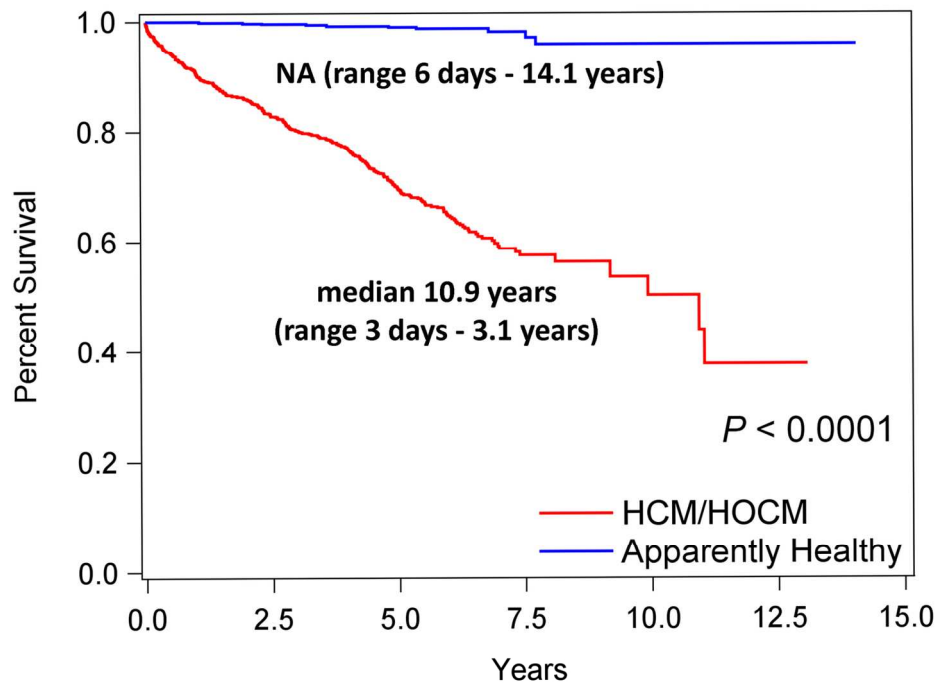


Figure 5. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating the percentage of 1,008 cats with nonobstructive (HCM, n=430) and obstructive (HOCM, n=578) forms of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy that have not yet experienced cardiovascular death (Y-axis), compared with 722 apparently healthy cats, against time (Y-axis). NA, median not estimatable.

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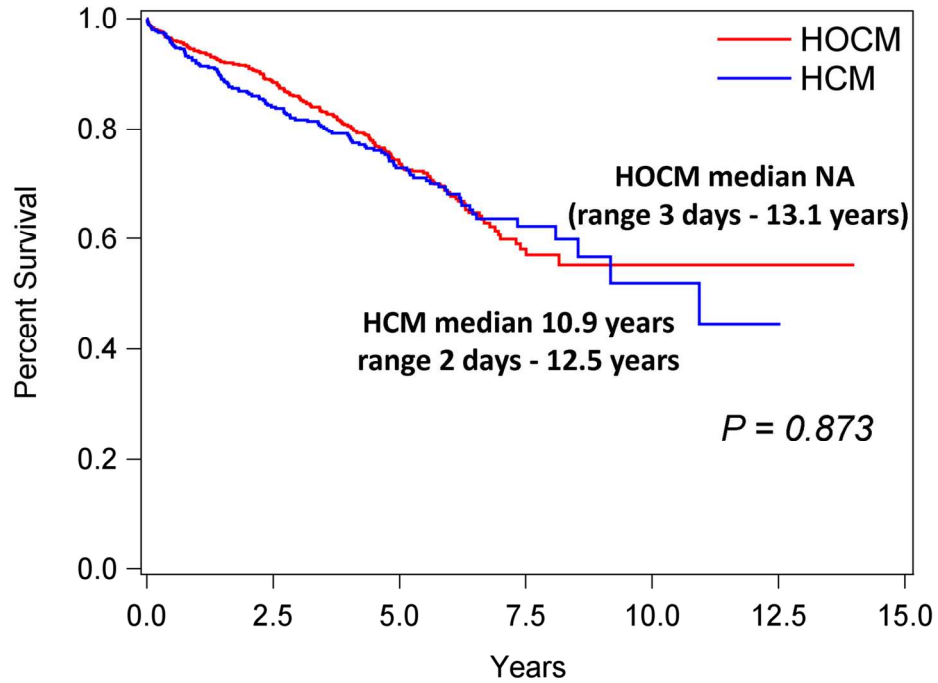


Figure 6. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating the percentage of 430 cats with nonobstructive (HCM) compared to 578 cats with obstructive (HOCM) forms of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy that have not yet experienced cardiovascular death (Y-axis), against time (X-axis). NA, median not estimatable.

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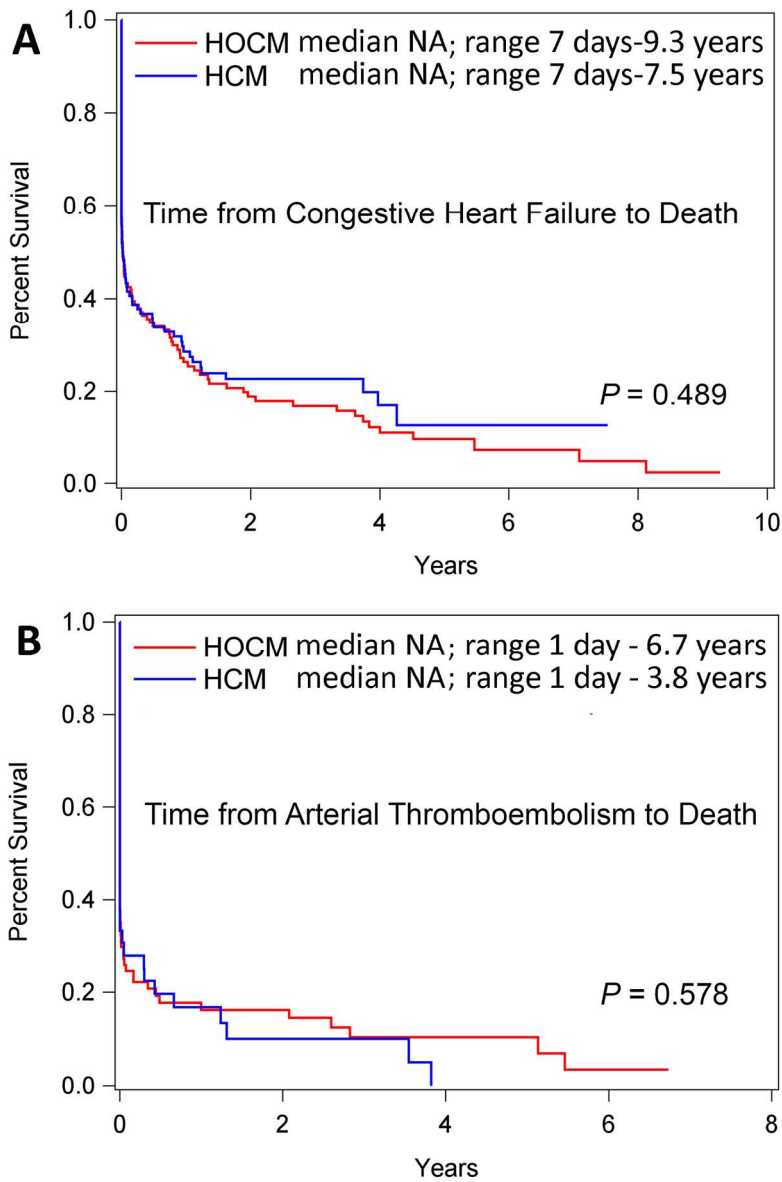


Figure 7. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating the percentage of 430 cats with nonobstructive (HCM) compared to 578 cats with obstructive (HOCM) hypertrophic cardiomyopathy that have not yet experienced cardiovascular death (Y-axis) for congestive heart failure (A), or arterial thromboembolism (B) against time (X-axis). NA, median not estimatable

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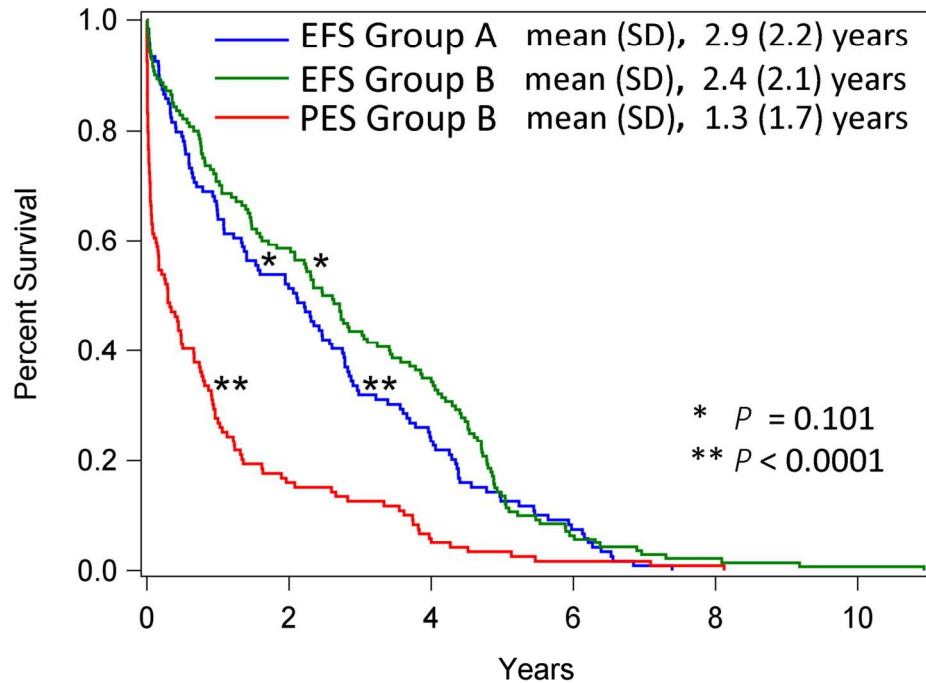


Figure 8. Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimating the event-free survival (EFS)_T proportion and post-event survival (PES) proportion (Y-axis) against time (X-axis). EFS Group-A comprised a cohort of 140 cats with pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy who died on the day of their first recorded CHF/ATE morbidity. EFS Group-B comprised a cohort of 119 cats with pre-clinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy who survived more than one day following their first recorded CHF/ATE morbidity. PES was calculated for these 119 cats. * P=597 0.101; ** P<0.0001; SD, standard deviation._T

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Table 1: Demographic characteristics of feline study populations.

Characteristic	Study Population Groups								Apparently Healthy vs HCM	Apparently Healthy vs HOCM	Apparently Healthy vs HCM/HOCM
	Apparently Healthy		HCM		HOCM		HCM/HOCM				
	n=722		n=430		n=578		n=1,008				
	Group Comparison P Values										
Age, years (Median; IQR)	4.9 (1.9-9)		7.4 (4-11)		5.7 (3-9)		6.5 (3-10)		<0.001	0.013	<0.001
Breed	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%			
Domestic Shorthair	304	42.1	265	61.6	353	61.1	618	61.3	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Maine Coon	145	20.1	32	7.4	26	4.5	58	5.8	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Domestic Longhair	38	5.3	45	10.5	35	6.1	80	7.9	0.001	0.620	0.038
Persian	37	5.1	27	6.3	60	10.4	87	8.6	0.487	<0.001	0.007
Norwegian Forest Cat	30	4.2	5	1.2	5	0.9	10	1.0	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Siamese	24	3.3	11	2.6	6	1.0	17	1.7	0.579	0.011	0.041
Sphynx	21	2.9	5	1.2	8	1.4	13	1.3	0.083	0.095	0.026
Ragdoll	14	1.9	2	0.5	2	0.3	4	0.4	0.071	0.020	0.004
Other	109	15.1	38	8.8	83	14.4	121	12.0	0.003	0.769	0.072
Sex											
Male Intact	97	13.4	39	9.1	41	7.1	80	7.9	0.033	<0.001	<0.001
Male Neutered	264	36.6	268	62.3	372	64.4	640	63.5	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Female Intact	159	22.0	25	5.8	21	3.6	46	4.6	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Female Neutered	202	28.0	98	22.8	144	24.9	242	24.0	0.061	0.238	0.057
Body weight, kg (Median, IQR)	4.5 (3.6-5.4)		5.2 (4.2-6.0)		5 (4.2-6.0)		5 (4.2-6.0)		<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

IQR, interquartile range; HCM, nonobstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; HOCM, obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; Other, pedigree crosses and all other non-specified breeds.

Table 2: Prevalence of systolic heart murmurs in feline study populations.

	Study Population (n=1,730)								P values		
	Apparently Healthy (n=722)		HCM (n=430)		HOCM (n=578)		HCM/HOCM (n=1,008)		Apparently Healthy vs HCM	Apparently Healthy vs HOCM	Apparently Healthy vs HCM/HOCM
Number of cats with heart murmurs		%		%		%		%			
	335	46.4	294	68.4	537	92.9	831	82.4			
Heart murmur grade											
1	60	8.3	25	5.8	13	2.3	38	3.8	0.028	<0.001	<0.001
2	168	23.3	109	25.3	91	15.7	200	19.8	0.465	0.007	0.078
3	91	12.6	120	27.9	271	46.9	391	38.8	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
4	16	2.2	39	9.1	157	27.2	196	19.4	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
5	0	0.0	1	0.2	5	0.9	6	0.6	0.195	0.012	0.038

HCM, nonobstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; HOCM, obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

Table 3: Cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in feline study populations.

Study Population Groups

Cardiovascular Morbidity	Apparently Healthy n=722		HCM n=430		HOCM n=578		HCM/HOCM n=1008	
	Number Events	% Normal	Number Events	% HCM	Number Events	% HOCM	Number. Events	% HCM/HOCM
CHF	6	0.83	106	24.7	138	23.9	244	24.2
ATE	5	0.69	41	9.5	76	13.2	117	11.6
Sudden death	0	0	9	2.1	13	2.3	22	2.2
All cardiovascular death	7	0.97	115	26.7	166	28.7	281	27.9

HCM, nonobstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; HOCM, obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; CHF, congestive heart failure; ATE, arterial thromboembolism

Table 4: Incidence of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality events per 1,000 cat years grouped by age when diagnosed.

Age Group	Population Cohorts	CHF Morbidity	ATE Morbidity	Sudden Death	All-Cardiovascular Death
Total Population	Apparently Healthy	1.6	1.3	0	1.8
	HCM	62.9	22.2	4.6	64.8
	HOCM	54.2	29.5	5.3	62.5
	HCM/HOCM	57.6	26.6	5.0	63.4
Group 1 (<2.5 years)	Apparently Healthy	0.7	0.7	0	0
	HCM	52.6	11.7	2.9	46.7
	HOCM	50.4	28.3	6.3	62.7
	HCM/HOCM	51.2	22.5	5.1	57.1
Group 2 (2.5 - 5.6 years)	Apparently Healthy	2.3	0	0	1.1
	HCM	55.1	22.8	8.2	55.5
	HOCM	57.8	31.0	3.6	59.1
	HCM/HOCM	56.8	28.0	5.3	57.7
Group 3 (>5.6 -10 years)	Apparently Healthy	2.4	2.4	0	4.7
	HCM	62.6	33.1	1.8	78.8
	HOCM	53.4	32.4	6.1	69.9
	HCM/HOCM	57.1	32.7	4.4	72.7
Group 4 (>10 years)	Apparently Healthy	2.0	3.9	0	3.9
	HCM	81.4	15.3	5.0	75.1
	HOCM	54.4	21.7	5.3	53.6
	HCM/HOCM	68.1	18.4	5.1	64.7

HCM, nonobstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; HOCM, obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; CHF, congestive heart failure; ATE, arterial thromboembolism

Table 5: Risk of cardiac morbidity and death assessed at 1, 5, and 10 year intervals following study entry.

	CHF		ATE		Sudden Death		All-Cardiovascular Death	
Risk	% Population Remaining at-Risk	% Population Affected	% Population Remaining at-Risk	% Population Affected	% Population Remaining at-Risk	% Population Affected	% Population Remaining at-Risk	% Population Affected
1-year post diagnosis								
Apparently Healthy	100	0.0	100	0.0	100	0.0	100	0.0
HCM	93.3	6.7	95.8	4.2	99.3	0.7	92.3	7.7
HOCM	92.7	7.3	97.1	2.9	99.1	0.9	94.1	5.9
HCM/HOCM	93.0	7.0	96.5	3.5	99.2	0.8	93.3	6.7
5-years post diagnosis								
Apparently Healthy	99.6	0.4	99.6	0.4	100	0.0	99.3	0.7
HCM	79.5	20.5	92.3	7.7	98.1	1.9	77.7	22.3
HOCM	80.4	19.6	88.7	11.3	96.7	3.3	76.8	23.2
HCM/HOCM	80.1	19.9	90.3	9.7	97.3	2.7	77.2	22.8
10-years post diagnosis								
Apparently Healthy	99.2	0.8	99.3	0.7	100	0.0	99.0	1.0
HCM	75.6	24.4	91.2	8.8	97.4	2.6	73.3	26.7
HOCM	76.5	23.5	86.8	13.2	96.0	4.0	70.6	29.4
HCM/HOCM	76.1	23.9	88.7	11.3	96.6	3.4	71.7	28.3

HCM, nonobstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; HOCM, obstructive hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; CHF, congestive heart failure; ATE, arterial thromboembolism.