

Dilated Cardiomyopathy vs. Myocarditis

Factor	Dilated cardiomyopathy	Myocarditis
Breed	Large and giant breeds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doberman Pinscher • Great Dane • Irish Wolfhound • Boxer 	Any breed
Signalment	Middle age to older, although juvenile onset is possible in some breeds	Any age
Cause	Genetic/heritable	Viral Protozoal Bacterial Fungal Systemic inflammatory disease
Dilation of the ventricle with reduced systolic function	Typical	Possible
Arrhythmias	Ventricular arrhythmias Atrial fibrillation	Any are possible depending on the area affected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventricular arrhythmias • Atrial arrhythmias • Atrioventricular block
Diagnosis	Echocardiography Electrocardiogram 24-hour Holter monitor	Echocardiography Electrocardiogram Infectious disease testing
Cardiac troponin I	Not detectable to mildly increased	Typically elevated