Dyspnea (labored breathing)

Evaluation via history and physical examination; eliminate stertor or stridor suggesting upper airway disease.

- Obvious marked obesity (“Pickwickian”)
- Heartworm endemic area
- Evidence of cervical neurologic disease: paraparesis or tetraparesis
- Hyperthermia
- Pale mucous membranes
- Increased bronchovesicular sounds and/or pulmonary crackles
- Diminished breath sounds
- Additional signs of cardiac disease
- Chest wall deformation

- Dirofilaria and heartworm antigen test; heartworm antibody test if feline
- Evaluate for primary neurologic disease
- Check PCV

- Heartworm positive
- Heartworm negative

Is patient in severe distress?
- No
- Yes

Thoracic radiography

STABILIZE