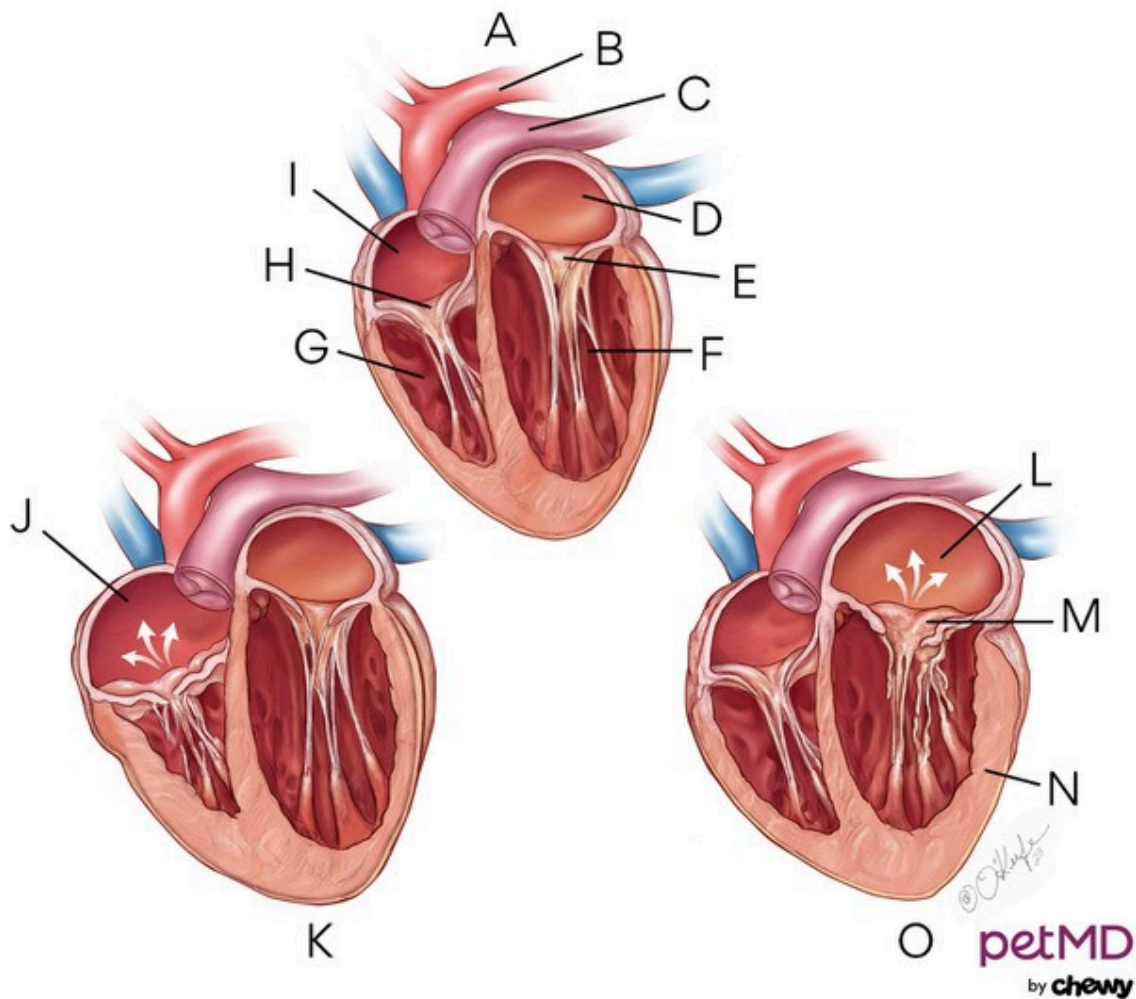


Heart Valve Malformation in Cats



In a normal heart **(A)** (top middle), the lower chambers include the left ventricle **(F)** and right ventricle **(G)**. With each contraction, the left ventricle sends oxygenated blood into the aorta **(B)** and the right ventricle pushes unoxygenated blood into the pulmonary artery **(C)**. The heart's upper chambers, or atria, include the left atrium **(D)** and right atrium **(I)**. On the right side, the tricuspid valve **(H)** is positioned between the right atrium and right ventricle. On the left side, the mitral valve **(E)** is positioned between the left atrium and left ventricle. In a cat with **tricuspid valve dysplasia (K)**, the right ventricle may be enlarged **(J)**. In a cat with **mitral valve dysplasia (O)**, the left atrium may be enlarged **(L)**, the mitral valve may be narrow and allow blood to back flow **(M)**, and the left ventricle wall may be thickened **(N)**.