

- ✓ The mitral valves are normal.
- ✎ This is probably the best imaging plane to see lesions without artifactually creating them.
- ✓ Right ventricular wall thickness is about half the thickness of the left ventricular wall.
  - Make sure the left ventricular wall is normal in thickness based on M-Mode measurements.
  - If the relationship of right to left wall thickness is normal and the left wall is thick, so is the right.
- ✎ Do not assess right ventricular size in this imaging plane.
  - It is easy to create a very large right ventricle with slightly different transducer placement.

## Right Parasternal Transverse Views

### Technique in the Dog and Cat ☺

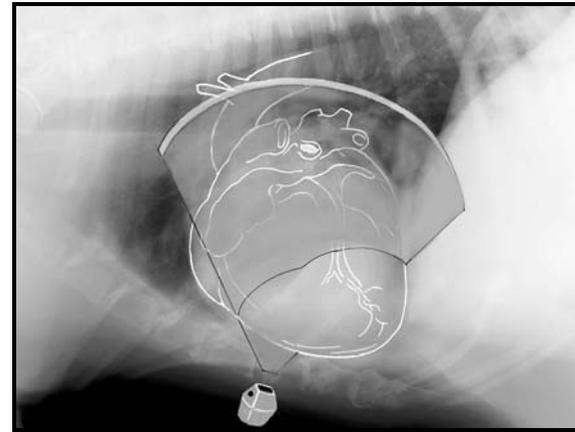
(Figures 2-8, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-11)

- ✓ Start with a good left ventricular outflow view.
- ♥ Pay attention to the long axis of the heart and how it is aligned within the thorax. Imagine a line along the length of the heart.
  - Very deep-chested dogs, for instance, may have a heart that is oriented straight up and down in the thorax from spine to sternum.
  - Most dogs typically have hearts that are oriented from shoulder to xyphoid (see Figure 1-3).
  - The long axis in cats is oriented a little more along the sternum (see Figure 1-2).
  - This line is how you will fan and point the crystals as you move from base to apex to obtain these transverse views.
- ✓ Twist the transducer so the reference mark moves away from the spine toward the animal's elbows.
- ✓ Drop the transducer slightly but keep at least a 60-degree angle between the transducer and the thorax.
- ✓ Twist until a round left-ventricular chamber or aorta is seen.
  - You have twisted enough when the left ventricle is symmetrical and both papillary muscles are seen clearly or

- When the aorta in the center of the image is a complete and closed circle or cloverleaf shape.

- ✓ Pivot the transducer so that the crystals point from the base of the heart to the apex along the long axis of the heart (as visualized in step 1).

- ✎ Keep the angle between the transducer and the thorax; do not become perpendicular to the chest wall.



**Figure 2-8A** This illustration shows how the right parasternal transverse view of the left ventricle at the level of the papillary muscles is oriented in the thorax.



**Figure 2-8B** The transducer should be held and positioned as shown in this image in order to obtain this right parasternal transverse view of the left ventricle. See text for details.