

ULTRASOUND

Your Appointment: As a new client/patient, we will have a Hospital Admission Consent Form for you to complete upon your arrival. Our technician will then take your pet to our ultrasound room where the procedure will take place. The patient is placed on their back in a cushioned V-trough and the abdomen is shaved. Ultrasound will then be used to evaluate all of the organs in the abdominal cavity. Occasionally, sedation is required for large, tense, painful or uncooperative patients. Sedation is also required if fine needle aspirates (FNA) are performed for organ sampling. Once the images are acquired, the radiologists will review them along with the history provided by you and your referring veterinarian. A report is then generated and sent to your veterinarian. After the exam is complete, our radiologists will meet with you to discuss all findings and any further recommendations. They will be able to answer all your questions at this time.

*****It is important that you do not feed your pet after midnight the night before his/her appointment and that they have nothing to eat the morning of your appointment. You may give water and any medications that they are currently taking. Please contact our office if you have any further questions regarding these instructions.*****

Procedure Information: In both human and veterinary medicine, ultrasound has been an extremely important imaging modality for many years. Ultrasound provides a non-invasive way of evaluating patient anatomy. Anatomic imaging with ultrasound is accomplished with a pulse echo technique. Pulses of ultrasound are generated by a transducer and sent into the patient where they produce echoes at organ boundaries and within tissue. The echoes then return to the transducer where they are detected and then presented on the monitor.

There are several factors that go into producing and interpreting excellent ultrasound studies. These include the quality of the equipment, patient preparation, proper restraint and most importantly, the operator.

Ultrasound studies at Animal Imaging are performed by board-certified radiologists. Their training includes three years of post graduate study in diagnostic imaging including ultrasound with a challenging university case load. The intricacies of proper ultrasound technique cannot be learned at a short course. No other group of ultrasonographers is trained to the extent as Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Radiology.

Patient preparation and management is also important. The patient will be clipped and prepped with acoustic couplers to better evaluate the body part of interest. At times, sedation is required to insure relaxation and compliance for the exam, and allow sampling of abnormal areas with FNA if applicable (or necessary).

Patients at Animal Imaging are currently imaged with BioSound MyLab Gold machines with multiple probes. The MyLab units produce excellent images, are DICOM compliant, and are outfitted with spectral Doppler, color flow velocity and power color with bidirectional Doppler.

Ultrasound procedures at Animal Imaging include echocardiograms, abdominal and thoracic ultrasounds, specialty ultrasound, fine needle aspirates (sent out for cytology), thoracocentesis, abdominocentesis and pericardiocentesis. Ultrasound procedures are also used as a screening test for patients with ectopic ureters. Our radiologists also interpret digital ultrasound clips that are sent to the clinic. Please call our office regarding pricing of the above mentioned procedures.

Ultrasound is a very important part of our case load at Animal Imaging, and is an extremely invaluable diagnostic tool.