Procedure Information:

A CT scan, or computed tomography, is a computer processed combination of x-ray images taken from different angles to produce cross-sectional images of the specific area. These images are highly detailed, virtual slices throughout the area of interest, typically between 1 and 3 mm in thickness.

Indications for CT:

- Evaluations of the abdomen and thorax:
  - Staging of neoplasia
  - Presurgical assessment of masses
  - Vascular studies e.g. Portosystemic shunts
- Evaluation of the skull/cervical spine:
  - Nasal disease, thyroid masses, trauma/fracture evaluation
- Musculoskeletal evaluations with the primary focus on excellent bone detail:
  - Elbow dysplasia [potentially can be done under sedation per case basis]
  - Developmental disease
- Other uses as determined by our team of board-certified veterinary radiologists.

Scheduling an Appointment:

All CT appointments are scheduled as drop-off appointments. We request that patients arrive at Animal Imaging by 8:00 AM. To provide the best diagnosis possible, a completed CT referral form is required from the referring veterinarian, including any pertinent history related to the exam. This form is available on our website at www.animalimaging.net.

As a new client/patient, we will have a hospital admission consent form and estimate for the owner to complete upon arrival. If the pet is over 6-years-old, chest radiographs may be requested. However, if the CT examination will include the chest, radiographs are generally not necessary. A CBC and chemistry panel (within 60 days) will also be required. Radiographs and blood work can be submitted by the referring veterinarian if recently obtained. Animal Imaging can provide this service if needed. The majority of CT studies are performed under general anesthesia. Additionally, intravenous iodinated contrast is administered in the majority of studies. Our staff will consult with the owner regarding any complications of contrast
administration and possible IV fluid administration post-contrast administration. The owner will then be asked to review and sign the consent for general anesthesia and administration of contrast material. Once the paperwork is completed we will take the patient to the treatment area where technicians will prepare the patient for the procedure. An indwelling IV catheter will be placed. The patient will be anesthetized with sevoflurane on most examinations. During general anesthesia, the patient’s vital signs will be monitored by one of our anesthesia technicians.

Our Board-Certified Veterinary Radiologists will review the images and generate a report within 24-48 hrs of the exam. Our staff will call the owner when the patient is ready to be discharged. Veterinary Radiologists have completed an approved Residency Program in Diagnostic Imaging that includes at least three years of advanced training and intensive study in Radiology (x-ray), Ultrasonography, Computed Tomography (CT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and Nuclear Medicine.

The radiologists that will be reviewing the study include Dr. Rita Echandi, Dr. Dana Neelis, and Dr. Beth Biscoe. The CT report will not be available when the pet is discharged, however, we will e-mail the report to the owner and referring veterinarian soon after it is completed. The referring veterinarian will then be able to discuss the results with the owner and finalize a treatment plan.

Patient preparation for appointment:

*It is important that the owner does not feed the pet after midnight the night before their appointment, and that they have nothing to eat the morning of the appointment. Water may be given and any medications that they are currently taking.