

Fluoroscopy

Procedure information:

Fluoroscopy involves a dynamic or real-time radiographic evaluation of selected anatomy such as the trachea and esophagus. Fluoroscopy has been utilized in veterinary medicine and human medicine for years to provide real-time evaluation of dynamic anatomy such as the fluctuations of the trachea on inspiration and expiration or how an esophagus may dilate or contract with the addition of a radiopaque coating on ingested food.

Indications for fluoroscopy:

Collapsing trachea:

The trachea (windpipe) is a tube which carries air to the lower airways. In tracheal collapse, there is narrowing of the tracheal lumen during breathing. This condition may affect the part of the trachea that is located in the neck (cervical trachea) or in the chest (intrathoracic trachea). There may also be collapse at the region of the carina and mainstem bronchi prior to bifurcating into the lower airways. An efficient way to evaluate tracheal collapse is fluoroscopy. The awake patient is placed on their side. Fluoroscopy is used to evaluate the trachea dynamically. The trachea will be evaluated during normal respiration and when the patient is coughing. In a few select patients, an intentional procedure known as tracheal stenting can be utilized to effectively open the airway. Case selection is critical.

Esophagram:

There are select clinical abnormalities of the esophagus which affect the patient's ability to effectively swallow. A three phase esophagram is performed using liquid barium, and liquid barium mixed with canned food and kibble. Barium is a radiopaque material that effectively coats the ingested food material and allows visualization of the passage of the bolus of food through the esophagus.

* For esophageal studies, please bring a sample of canned food and kibble to your appointment. This is important if your pet is on a special diet.

Scheduling appointment:

The above-mentioned procedures are outpatient exams. The patient is typically discharged within 1-2 hours after arrival. As a new client/patient, we will have a hospital admission consent form for the owner to complete upon arrival. Our technicians will then take the patient to fluoroscopy where the procedure will take place. Sedation is typically not necessary. Images of the procedure will be captured and saved on a CD for your records. After the exam is complete one of our board-certified radiologist will meet with the owner and discuss the findings. A report is generated and sent to the owner and referring veterinarian within 24 hrs. 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.

Patient preparation:

***It is very 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 their exam. They can have access to water.**

***Some medications may need to be with-held the day of the appointment. Detailed instructions will be given the day prior to the appointment when the appointment is being confirmed.**