

Procedure information:

In both human and veterinary medicine, ultrasound has been extremely important imaging modality for many years. Anatomic imaging with ultrasound is accomplished with a pulse echo technique. Ultrasound waves 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 presented to the monitor. Patients at Animal Imaging are currently imaged with MyLab Gold ultrasound machines with multiple probes. These units produce excellent images, are DICOM compliant, and are outfitted with spectral Doppler. All ultrasound images are transferred to our server after each exam, which can then be easily delivered to the referring veterinarian and/or owner for future reference. It is our goal at Animal Imaging to make diagnostic imaging an extension of your practice.

The training of the ultrasonographer is paramount to the success of a diagnostic study. Ultrasound studies are performed at Animal Imaging by board certified veterinary radiologists. Their training includes 3 years of postgraduate study in diagnostic imaging including ultrasound with a challenging and varied university caseload. No other group of ultrasonographer's are trained to the extent as diplomates of the American College of veterinary radiology. Board certified veterinary Radiologists at Animal Imaging include Dr. Rita Echandi, Dr. Dana Neelis, and Dr. Beth Biscoe.

Common indications for ultrasound:

- Echocardiograms
- Abdominal studies
- Thoracic studies (e.g. mediastinal or lung masses)
- Specialty ultrasounds (e.g. thyroid, parathyroid, reproductive)
- Thoracocentesis, abdominocentesis, pericardiocentesis, and fine needle aspiration.

Scheduling an appointment:

To provide the best diagnosis possible, a completed ultrasound 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. Current lab work including a CBC and chemistry panel is strongly advised/ encouraged to correlate the sonographic findings with clinical/biochemical abnormalities. Additionally, a CBC is required for performing fine needle aspirates. A CBC can be performed at Animal Imaging if necessary.

As a new client/patient, we will have a hospital admission consent form for the owner to complete upon arrival. Our technician will then take the patient to our ultrasound room where the procedure will take place. The patient is often positioned in a cushioned V-trough and the area of interest is shaved. Sedation is used on most studies (other than echocardiograms) and required if fine-needle aspirates are performed for organ sampling. Once the study is performed, the radiologist will review the images with the history provided by the owner and referring veterinarian. After the exam is complete the 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.

Patient preparation for appointment:

***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 and any medications that they are currently taking.**