

# EXPECTATIONS FOR OUTPATIENT ULTRASOUND

**WHY DOES MY PET NEED TO FAST?** Your pet should not eat after 6pm the night before the ultrasound.

Your pet may have access to water. Obtaining diagnostic images of the organs is difficult when the patient has food in the stomach/gastrointestinal system. If your pet has been diagnosed with diabetes or another condition that requires medication/regular meals, please discuss this with us when you schedule the appointment.

**DOES MY PET HAVE TO BE SHAVED?** To obtain the best ultrasound images possible, good contact between the ultrasound probe and the patient's skin is required. The patient will need to have the fur/hair shaved from the area being scanned.

**CAN I BE WITH MY PET DURING THE ULTRASOUND?** No. Your pet will be handled by a trained veterinary technician/assistant during the ultrasound. Due to the size of the room and the technical aspects of performing an ultrasound exam, we do not permit owners to accompany their pet to the treatment area. Our board certified veterinary radiologist will perform the ultrasound exam and will produce a written imaging interpretation (radiology report).



**WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS DURING THE EXAM PROCESS?** The ultrasound exam is performed on a padded table while the patient lies quietly on their back in a dimly-lit room. Trained staff stays with your pet throughout the procedure to aid in positioning and to help reassure your pet. A warm water-based gel is applied to the area being examined and the ultrasound transducer (probe) is gently moved along the patient's skin. Most pets will relax and rest peacefully for the procedure. In some cases, sedation may also be administered if the patient is difficult to restrain or in pain.

**WILL MY PET NEED SEDATION?** The vast majority of pets do not require sedation. If sedation is required to perform a diagnostic quality evaluation, you will be contacted prior to any sedative being administered to get your consent. As with any sedation some minor risks of adverse reaction need to be considered, and those will be discussed with you. If you think that your pet may require sedation due either to personality or to pain, please discuss that with us and with your primary care veterinarian. During periods of very high caseload, we cannot guarantee that the ultrasound will be performed at that appointment time or during that day if sedation is required, and may need to be rescheduled.

## **HOW DO I RECEIVE MY PET'S ULTRASOUND RESULTS?**

All information regarding your pet's ultrasound will be included in a detailed radiology report sent to your primary care veterinarian's practice within 24 hours. Your primary care veterinarian will communicate the results of the ultrasound to you. Any questions regarding your pet's treatment options/next steps should be directed to your primary care veterinarian. They will be directing your pet's medical care moving forward, unless they recommend referral to one of our other specialists. If a condition requiring immediate intervention is identified, you will be alerted by phone while your pet is in our facility.



## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR VERY ILL PATIENTS**

We understand that patients sometimes decline between the time of their appointment with the primary care veterinarian and the ultrasound exam. If your pet arrives in an unstable condition, one of our emergency doctors will fully evaluate them. Our emergency veterinarian will then contact you with medical recommendations based upon that physical examination. Our routine emergency charges for the exam and any medical treatments will apply. Our staff will contact your primary care veterinarian as soon as possible to give them an update on your pet's condition.