



ULTRASOUND APPOINTMENT INFORMATION AND CONFIRMATION

At Steveston Veterinary Hospital we offer the service of ultrasonography in our clinic for your pet, performed by a mobile radiologist. Ultrasound is a non-invasive way to look within the body. Unlike x-rays, ultrasound is not a form of radiation. Ultrasound utilizes sound waves to examine the internal organs of the body. A Veterinary Radiologist is a Veterinarian who has advanced training in diagnostic imaging and who has passed the American College of Veterinary Radiology Board Certification Examination.

Preparation

For the ultrasound appointment, patients need to be fasted for AT LEAST 8 hours. This means no food, water is ok. Please prevent patients from urinating (if possible) for 1 - 2 hours prior to ultrasound. If your pet is diabetic or if you have any other concerns regarding fasting, please contact us for direction.

What to expect

We request that clients wait in the reception area or leave pets with us for a few hours during the ultrasound. Because the radiologist is a mobile service, we cannot always be accurate with the time of the actual procedure. There may be extra patients or emergencies at the prior clinic or there may be issues with traffic. We do our best to keep the appointments as close to the scheduled time as possible but some things are out of our control.

We will shave the area of interest. For the abdomen, we shave the underside of the patient and for cardiac studies there will be two areas on the side of the chest shaved. If a patient is painful, uncomfortable or stressed then we may require a mild sedation to perform the ultrasound. If the radiologist recommends that any samples be obtained then we may be able to obtain these at the time of the ultrasound. The radiologist will generate a detailed report of the study and a Steveston Veterinary Hospital veterinarian will discuss the results and any future plans of action with you.

Sedation

If a patient is painful, uncomfortable, or stressed then we may require sedation to perform a complete examination. Should sedation be needed, then this will be administered by injection. This is not a general anesthetic, and your pet will be able to go home immediately following the appointment. Any time a medication is administered to an animal there is always some degree of risk, however we will not administer any sedation to an animal unless we feel that it is safe to do so.

Sampling - Fine Needle Aspirate

Should the radiologist see something that they recommend sampling, this can often be performed at the time of the appointment, if we have your permission in advance. A fine needle aspirate entails introducing a small needle into the organ of interest guided by ultrasound, and removing a few cells. These cells are then put onto a slide and sent to a pathologist to review. This is considered to be a relatively non-invasive method of sampling internal organs within the body. There is always a small risk of bleeding, however we minimize this risk by using sedation

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where needed and guiding the needle by ultrasound. Should any other types of sample be recommended, or the radiologist feel there is an increased risk for bleeding then we will not take samples at the time of the appointment. In these cases we will discuss the ultrasound results with you to decide what is our best way to proceed.

Because we are using a mobile radiologist, we require confirmation of all ultrasound appointments 3 days prior to the appointment. We also will charge a fee for any cancellations less than 24 hours before the appointment or any missed appointments.

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