

Ultrasound Preparation Instructions

What to expect:

On your pet's scheduled day you will check them in with a veterinary staff member. The procedure plan and estimated charges will be discussed with you at this time; feel free to call ahead of time with any questions. We also ask that you sign a consent form for the ultrasound procedure.

After check in, any necessary lab tests can be collected and performed, your pet will also receive a pre-procedure evaluation to determine if sedation is necessary, and to make sure your pet is healthy enough for sedation if warranted. If tissue aspirates (small needle biopsies) have been recommended and approved, sedation is usually performed for your pet's comfort and safety.

Immediately prior to the ultrasound, your pet's abdomen and part of the ribs will be shaved. A small amount of alcohol and ultrasound gel will be applied to the skin to allow for clear imaging. Some pets can be imaged while awake but many pets require a very light sedative for clear and thorough imaging. This reduces movement, increases accuracy and allows for thorough evaluation of the deeper structures in the abdomen. Rest easy, as your pet is constantly and carefully monitored by a licensed technician at all times.

How to prepare:

Fast: Do not feed your pet for at least 8 hours prior to the appointment (this includes treats at the doctor's office)! Air and food in the stomach can block ultrasound waves and mimic foreign objects. This is most important if we are looking for foreign material in the stomach or intestines. Oral medications to reduce anxiety at the vet clinic are okay to give at least 3 hours before the appointment. **Skip the last potty break:** A full bladder is important to allow for accurate imaging of the bladder wall and surrounding lymph nodes. While a morning potty break is fine, don't let your pet go to the bathroom in the 2 hours prior to your scheduled drop off if possible. Keep cats away from the litter box. **Relax:** Although away from mom and dad, your pet is under the absolute best loving care of our compassionate staff. We make sure they are safe, comfortable and warm at all times during the examination and recovery.

Optional Tissue Sampling:

Needle Aspirate (FNA) is a method of acquiring a small tissue sample for microscopic analysis. Ultrasound guidance is a great way to collect these samples easily and accurately. You will decide with your veterinarian if you would like this procedure done at the same time as the imaging study. Side effects are very rare but can include bleeding or infection.