

## CLIENT INFORMATION SHEET – ULTRASOUND

Ultrasound is a painless procedure that uses sound waves to produce an image of organs and other structures in the body – it is an excellent way of visualizing internal organs. It is most useful for looking at organs and structures that are uniform and solid (such as the liver and spleen) or fluid-filled (such as the bladder); it is also excellent for evaluating moving structures such as the heart. Mineralized structures (bones) or air filled organs (such as the lungs) cannot generally be evaluated with ultrasound.

An abdominal ultrasound will allow us to visualize the organs and other structures in the abdomen including the liver, gallbladder, spleen, kidneys, adrenal glands, urinary bladder, prostate gland (males), ovaries and uterus (intact females), pancreas, stomach, small and large (colon) intestines, abdominal lymph nodes and blood vessels.

An echocardiogram (cardiac ultrasound) allows a detailed examination of the structure and function of the heart, for evaluation of both congenital and acquired heart disease.

Ultrasound also allows guided access for minimally invasive sampling (fine needle aspiration) of masses or abnormal fluid accumulations quickly and simply during the procedure; in many cases this can provide a definitive diagnosis. In some cases a tissue sample may be required – this is a more complicated procedure and requires clotting profiles and general anaesthesia, and will not generally be performed on the same day as the initial scan.

To prepare your pet for their ultrasound examination, please do not feed your pet after 8 pm the night before the procedure (*unless your pet is a diabetic, in which case, take advice from your GP vet*). It is important that your pet is fasted for an abdominal ultrasound because a full stomach can make imaging organs around the stomach difficult. Free access to water should be provided. If possible, please do not let your pet urinate within 1 hour before the study – a full or partially full urinary bladder is very helpful for a complete examination.

The fur on the abdomen (for abdominal ultrasound) or on the chest wall (thoracic ultrasound, echocardiography) will be clipped prior to the examination.

Many of our patients will not need sedation, however if your pet is anxious or very painful it may be helpful – your veterinarian will inform us if there are any contraindications to sedation.

Following the examination the radiologist will contact your veterinarian to discuss the findings; a written report will also be faxed or sent to your veterinarian. When your pet is discharged, you will be given a brief indication of the findings, but we ask that you visit or contact your veterinarian to fully discuss the findings from the study and any further recommendations as they relate to the clinical problem of your pet.

The Veterinary Imaging Centre (ph: 9204 0400) is located at 305 Selby St Osborne Park, within Perth Veterinary Specialists. The practice is close to Scarborough Beach Road and there are many local coffee shops and interesting browsing opportunities if you would like to fill in time while your pet is being examined (usually an exam takes about 45 minutes). Please leave a mobile phone number with the receptionist in case we need to contact you.

305 Selby Street North, Osborne Park WA 6017

Email [admin@perthvetspecialists.com.au](mailto:admin@perthvetspecialists.com.au) | Phone 08 9204 0400 | Fax 08 9204 5677

