

Ultrasound Referral Information for Owners

What to expect

Welcome to our outpatient ultrasound referral service at Wanstead Veterinary Hospital. Your veterinary surgeon has referred you and your pet to the Wanstead Veterinary Hospital for an ultrasound study.

Your vet will already have advised you on many aspects of the procedure but the following information will help you further to know what to expect during and after your visit.

Arrival

Please check in for your appointment with our receptionist when you arrive. Our ultrasound nurse will subsequently meet with you to confirm details of the procedure, confirm an estimate of costs and obtain your written consent. If you do have any specific concerns then please let us know at this time.

The nurse will then admit your pet to hospital for Andrew Holloway to perform the ultrasound scan. Andrew is a RCVS and European Specialist in Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging.

The Ultrasound examination

Most examinations will require 15-30 minutes. You are welcome to wait in our waiting area, however you should allow 60-75 minutes for the visit in the event that sedation is required. Wanstead High street is a very short distance away with many shops and comfortable cafés. We can agree a suitable time for you to collect your pet at the time of admission.

Food should be withheld overnight and water should be withheld 1-2 hours before the examination.

Unfortunately, owners cannot be present while the ultrasound scan is performed.

Where appropriate, and feasible, the ultrasound examination may be performed while your pet is conscious, held and reassured by our capable nursing staff. However, in some circumstances sedation may be required if your pet is overly anxious or painful.

The sedative usually chosen is reversible, with patients recovering quickly.

Your pet's hair will be clipped for the examination. This usually requires clipping an area along the belly with additional small areas behind the ribs.

Animals which are referred for ultrasonography are often unwell and may rarely require emergency supportive treatment before we can proceed with the scan.

Obtaining tissue samples (urine, fluid collections, fine needle aspirate, biopsy)

Please, if possible, try to avoid allowing your pet to urinate for a few hours prior to the examination, as we may need to obtain a urine sample by cystocentesis during the course of the ultrasound examination.

Your vet will normally have made you aware before the appointment if it is likely to be necessary to obtain a small sample of tissue using a needle (fine needle aspirate). The benefits, limitations and potential complications associated with fine needle aspiration will have been discussed with your veterinary surgeon before your appointment but we are happy to discuss again, if you have concerns.

Larger samples (biopsies) may sometimes be required. This may necessitate a follow-up visit as additional blood tests may be required before the biopsy procedure can be performed under general anaesthesia.

Samples will be sent to a specialist referral laboratory and the results forwarded to your own vet who will discuss these results further with you. The processing time of samples is usually 3-5 working days, but occasionally longer.

Additional fees will apply if sedation, general anaesthesia, biopsies or fluid samples are required. We will of course seek your consent and provide you with an estimate before performing these procedures.

Ultrasound report

Following the ultrasound scan, you will receive a brief verbal report from our veterinary radiologist Andrew Holloway, or his nurse, when your pet is being discharged. A comprehensive written report detailing the ultrasound findings will be prepared and emailed to your referring veterinary practice within 24 hours of the examination. Your own vet will remain in charge of the management of your pet's condition and therefore all discussions regarding the significance of the findings and ongoing clinical management should be with your veterinary surgeon, unless they have directed otherwise.

Payment



We ask that all fees for scans and associated procedures are settled at the time of collection of your pet. Please call us in advance if you would like to discuss payment. We accept all major credit and debit cards (except American Express).

We will assist in the completion of insurance claim forms by completing the required paperwork and will normally do so within 5 working days. We can in some instances agree a direct claim with your insurer but only if we have received a copy of your policy documents in advance and your insurer has confirmed that they will settle the bill.

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