

CT Outpatient Referral Information for Owners

What to expect

Welcome to the CT referral service at Wanstead Veterinary Hospital. Your veterinary surgeon has referred you and your pet to the Wanstead Veterinary Hospital for a CT (Computed Tomography) study. A CT scan is a type of X-Ray examination using a rotating X-Ray tube that produces a very large number of images of any part of the body and provides a very detailed picture of the internal anatomy of your pet.

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 CT 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 please let us know at this time. The nurse will then admit your pet to hospital for Andrew Holloway to perform the CT scan. Andrew is a RCVS and European Specialist in veterinary diagnostic imaging.

The CT examination

All food should be withheld overnight before the examination. Water should be withheld 1-2 hours before the examination.

Depending on the reason for the CT study your pet will require sedation or general anaesthesia.

Most CT procedures require approximately 45-60 minutes to be completed. The CT scan itself will only take a few minutes. The remainder of the time is occupied with preparing your pet to be placed into the CT scanner and to allow for recovery. You should allow 2-3 hours for the entire visit, as although the examination may be completed in a shorter period of time, we want to ensure that your pet has adequately recovered before being discharged.

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.

Your veterinary surgeon will usually perform a pre-anaesthetic blood test and urinalysis before the CT study. Alternatively, we can perform this on the day, if needed, but this would require that your pet is admitted for the day and the procedure delayed until results are available.

An intravenous catheter will be placed in a leg vein to administer the sedation or anaesthetic.

A contrast agent will be administered into the vein through the catheter, in most animals. The contrast agent is a very important part of the study and usually provides images with a great deal

more valuable information. There is a small risk of reaction to the contrast agent. Pre-anaesthetic blood and urine tests are performed to identify patients more likely to be at risk and intravenous fluids are administered after the contrast agent has been given to help prevent any problems arising.

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

After the CT examination

Your veterinary surgeon will counsel you about the possibility of obtaining samples (needle aspirates and biopsies) depending on the results of the CT study. We may want to discuss such a procedure with you after we finish the study.

There is an additional cost for performing any sampling procedure and we will provide you with an estimate for this at the time.

Samples will be sent to a laboratory and a copy of the results forwarded to both Wanstead Veterinary Hospital and your veterinary practice. The processing time of samples is usually 3-5 working days, but occasionally longer.

If a sample has been taken from your pet we may need to extend the period of hospitalisation to ensure a full recovery.

The CT report

The number of images produced by a CT examination may be in the order of 1000-3000 images. It takes some time to review all of these images. A comprehensive written report detailing the CT findings will therefore be emailed to your veterinary surgeon within 24 hours of the study.

We will endeavor to provide you with a limited summary of the findings immediately after the ultrasound scan, to provide reassurance, but all discussions regarding the significance of the findings, results of any samples and ongoing clinical management should be with your veterinary surgeon, unless they have directed otherwise.

Payment



Andrew Holloway BVSc CertSAM
DVDI DipECVDI MRCVS
RCVS and European Specialist in
Diagnostic Imaging

We ask that all fees for CT 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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