



What to Expect When Scheduling an Outpatient Abdominal Ultrasound

SNHVRH offers outpatient abdominal ultrasounds as a diagnostic service to referring veterinarians.

This service is intended for stable patients in cases where the referring veterinarian will communicate results to the client and guide decisions on further diagnostics and treatment. Results and findings of the ultrasound are provided directly to the referring veterinarians (rDVM) via fax or email; clients wishing to speak directly with the ultrasonographer should schedule a combination Consultation with Ultrasound appointment.

Guidelines for Referral

- Noncritical patients only; those in need of triage or urgent care should first be stabilized by the rDVM or an emergency facility
- Please complete the online referral form, including a brief case summary; this form should contain all pertinent information and relevant diagnostics

Preparing your clients for an ultrasound appointment:

- Patients should be strictly fasted after 10pm the night before the ultrasound appointment (unless diabetic or pediatric) for ideal evaluation of the abdomen; water should be provided as usual
- Patients should not be allowed to urinate immediately before their appointment
- Patients will have their abdomen shaved
- Outpatient ultrasound patients will not be given sedation as a veterinarian does not directly oversee this procedure. If you anticipate that your patient may require sedation, options are to either schedule a full Internal Medicine consultation with one of our specialists or to dispense oral sedation to be given by the owner prior to arrival at SNHVRH. If the temperament of the patient is such that an ultrasound cannot be performed, then client will be asked to return another day with either a sedative on-board or as a full Internal Medicine consultation.
- Ultrasound findings via written report will be sent to the rDVM within 2 business days; the ultrasonographer can also provide the rDVM with a brief summary by phone upon completion of the ultrasound. If you would like a call from the ultrasonographer, please indicate this on the referral form.
- Clients should expect to receive and discuss these findings with the rDVM following the appointment