



## **What to Expect When Scheduling an Outpatient Abdominal Ultrasound**

SNHVRH offers outpatient abdominal ultrasounds, performed by our Internal Medicine Specialist, 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 or patients requiring aspirates 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 for 12 hours prior to 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 time.
- Patients will have their abdomen shaved.
- Some patients will require sedation; please prepare your clients for this possibility. An additional charge will be incurred for sedation.
- Ultrasound findings via written report will be sent to the rDVM no later than end of day; the ultrasonographer can also provide the rDVM with a brief summary by phone upon completion of the ultrasound.
- Clients should expect to receive and discuss these findings with the rDVM following the appointment.