



Ultrasound (sonogram)

Ultrasound is a painless study that uses sound waves to produce an image of organs and other structures in the body.

Ultrasound is most useful for looking at organs and structures that are either uniform and solid (like the liver) or fluid-filled (like the bladder). Mineralized structures (like bones) or air-filled organs (like the lungs) are generally not amenable to evaluation with ultrasound.

To prepare your pet for their ultrasound, please do not feed your pet after 8 pm the night before their procedure. Water is permitted. Most of our patients will not need sedation. The fur on the abdomen or adjacent to the heart will be shaved during the examination. Please do not let your pet urinate within 3 hours before their study. A full urinary bladder is essential to a complete examination.

An abdominal ultrasound will allow us to visualize the organs and other structures in the abdomen such as: the liver, gallbladder, stomach, pancreas, spleen, kidneys, adrenal glands, intestines, colon, bladder, prostate gland, abdominal lymph nodes and blood vessels.

It is important that your pet is fasted for an abdominal ultrasound because a full stomach will make imaging organs around the stomach difficult. A full bladder is necessary to evaluate the urinary bladder.

When you return to pick up your pet, you will be given preliminary findings from the study. One of our technicians will discuss the images from the ultrasound with you and one of our radiologists will contact your veterinarian. A written report and the images from the study will also be sent your veterinarian.