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**Abdominal Ultrasound**

* Abdominal ultrasound provides a detailed view of the internal structure and size of the abdominal organs including the liver, spleen, kidneys, urinary bladder, adrenal glands, gall bladder, pancreas, stomach, intestines, blood vessels, and lymph nodes. It can be a valuable diagnostic tool for ill patients, patients with chronic diseases, as well as a general health screen.
* If you have discussed the details of abdominal ultrasound with your veterinarian and have decided that it is appropriate for your pet, the following provides information on how to proceed and what to expect.
	+ A receptionist can assist you in scheduling an ultrasound for a specific date and time. An ultrasound time will be scheduled as well as a specific time to drop off your pet. The drop off time will be scheduled at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled ultrasound to allow time for a physical exam, sedation, and shaving.
	+ Please withhold food (water is ok) from your pet for at least 12 hours prior to the scheduled time of the ultrasound. Any food in the stomach or intestines will alter the test results and may obstruct certain views.
	+ At drop off you will be asked to sign a surgical/anesthetic consent form. Please inform the technician at check in of any medications your pet is currently taking or any food that has been consumed in the past 12 hours. Please provide a current phone number where you can be reached during the procedure.
	+ Most patients will be sedated for the ultrasound and rarely general anesthesia will be required. The sedative is beneficial for relaxing and comforting the patient and often allows the doctor to get better visualization and more accurate test results. The sedative that is used is very safe and mild sedative tailored specifically for your pet. While the sedative relaxes the patient, he/she will still be awake during the procedure unless general anesthesia is required.
	+ There will be a large area of hair shaved on the patient’s abdomen. This is required because the ultrasound does not penetrate effectively through the hair coat.
	+ The ultrasound procedure takes approximately 1-2 hours. The doctor performing the ultrasound will contact you with any questions during the procedure or after completion to discuss the ultrasound and set up a discharge time.
	+ Most ultrasound cases are submitted online for a radiologist review. Results are typically available in 12-24 hours, but are dependent on the radiologist’s caseload. Occasionally, it may take 1-3 days to receive results. Your veterinarian will call you when results are available.

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