



Dear Pet Owners,

We are very excited to be able to partner with you and your family veterinarian in the care of your pet. It is our passion to improve the lives of pets and the families that care for them so deeply. Below you will find information regarding your upcoming visit.

Fasting

Fasting from food should be performed for 12 hours prior to abdominal ultrasounds and/or procedures to ensure the best results and safety for your pet. Fasting is not required for echocardiograms alone. For diabetic patients, very young pets, or those with medical conditions that limit fasting ability, please ask for specific recommendations. **Water should be available at all times and not restricted.**

Ultrasounds

The typical ultrasound appointment lasts approximately one hour; roughly 30-45 min for imaging with time for brief discussion of the findings as well as recommendations moving forward. Any additional diagnostics or treatments that need to be performed would add to this timeline. Your pet will need to be shaved for the examination. For abdominal ultrasounds the underbelly is shaved. For echocardiograms (heart ultrasounds) a small window on both sides of the chest will be shaved.

We understand the bond between pet owners and their pets and invite owners to be a part of the process. As long as your family veterinarian's facilities permit, owners are allowed to be present during the ultrasound. This can often lead to a more relaxed state for the pets and owners alike! Please note that we ask you to hold any questions or conversation until the exam is finished as not to detract from the study.

Sedation

The ultrasound and examination are most commonly performed without the need for sedation and are generally positive experiences for most pets. However, some very anxious or aggressive pets may benefit from sedation.

*If your pet has a history of marked fear or aggression, pre-treatment with mild sedation may help to improve the experience for all involved. We strongly recommend you discuss use of the CHILL protocol or other sedation protocols with your veterinarian if indicated.

Should your pet still require sedation, either for the scan or for obtaining diagnostic samples, this will be administered during the appointment by your veterinarian.

Fine Needle Aspirates

Occasionally there are changes noted during ultrasound that benefit from performing “fine needle aspirates” as part of the diagnostic plan. When this is recommended, a needle is guided by ultrasound into the area of interest (ex: pocket of fluid, mass, abnormal organ or lymph node, etc.) to allow for sampling of cells or fluid. This minimally invasive test is used quite commonly with little or no adverse effects typically noted. The minimally invasive nature, low risk profile, and higher diagnostic value are the main reasons this is offered. Possible side effects can include discomfort from the needle, bleeding at the site of sampling, infection, or leakage of air from the lung if sampling in the chest is performed. These side effects are rare, but can occur.

Should you have any questions or concerns before your appointment, please reach out to your primary veterinarian and we will work together to answer them as soon as possible.

We look forward to working with you soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. Charley Aldridge and Abbey
The Sojourn Vet Team