



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. We have found that the best structure of these appointments is a drop-off style. This allows us to better address the variability of the day that is inherent with a mobile practice. We strive to give you a specific window for the appointment so your pet doesn't have to wait all day to be seen.

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.

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 gabapentin +/- trazadone 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 high 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.

Endoscopy

Endoscopic procedures offer a minimally invasive means to diagnosing and treating certain diseases in pets. This includes diseases of the urinary tract, gastrointestinal tract, and respiratory tract (including the nose, throat, and lungs). When indicated, endoscopy may be recommended for your pet. Unless the procedure is emergent (as in the case of an esophageal or stomach foreign body), we recommend meeting prior to the procedure to discuss your pet’s specific details. This can be over the phone or in person. This discussion will help to ensure the correct procedure and all appropriate additional testing is recommended, maximizing our success in managing the issues at hand.

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 the team at Sojourn Vet