

ALL THE CARE YOUR PET NEEDS!

Hi there,

Your pet has been referred and booked in for an ultrasound. Please read the following information so you know what to expect on the day.

It is important that all food is with-held from 9.00pm-10pm the night before admission. In some instances, fasting is not appropriate, if this is the case with your pet then we will discuss this with you prior to the day. If your cat is not usually around in the mornings, it might be a good idea to keep them inside the night prior to the ultrasound. Fresh drinking water should be available at all times.

On the day of the ultrasound, drop off can be anytime between 7:30am and 9:00am. There will be a short admission conversation with a nurse to go through how your pet is going currently, if your pet requires any medications in clinic, a discussion in regard to sedation and the risks associated and when to expect your pet to be ready to go home.

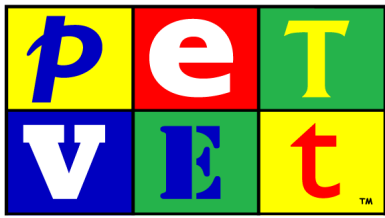
If you are unsure if your pet should have their morning medications prior to admission, please bring them with you for us to administer in clinic if required. If your pet has been dispensed pre-sedation, you can administer this with a small amount of food if needed and ensure the admission nurse is aware of the time it was given.

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#### *Abdominal ultrasounds:*

Once admitted, your pet will have a full physical exam performed by a vet/nurse to ensure your pet is safe for a sedation. A sedation plan is made individually for your pet. An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer sedation. Sedation or low dose pain killers and relaxants are used rather than a general anaesthesia. Your pet will then be placed on a comfy bedding on a table on their back. In order to obtain a high quality diagnostic image, their hair will be clipped from the back of their rib cage to just in front of their back legs. A nurse will then closely monitor their heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation and temperature during the ultrasound and necessary interventions made to ensure the safety of your pet during their ultrasound.

If indicated and deemed safe by the ultrasonographer, a fine needle aspirate (FNA) may be taken. The ultrasonographer will use the ultrasound to guide a very fine needle into the point of interest to collect cells to send to an external laboratory for cytology. Serious complications after fine needle aspirations are rare, bleeding from the site of the FNA can occur. We monitor your pet closely after an FNA is taken by checking their vital signs are stable throughout their recovery. When the ultrasound is complete your pet will be placed in a recovery cage. Your pet will be fed once they have fully come round from any sedation. If your pet is on a special prescription diet, please bring some with you.



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*Cardiac ultrasounds:*

Once admitted, your pet will have a full physical exam performed by a vet/nurse. Your pet will then be administered a light sedative so they aren't too stressed when restrained on their side for the ultrasound. Your pet will have a small shaved patch behind their elbow.

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Once your pet has recovered from their sedation, a nurse will call to arrange a pick up time. This is usually early afternoon but can be later if there are a lot of cases on the day. We do get busy so please don't hesitate to call us for an update if you haven't heard anything from us. Your pet should be kept inside and quiet for the rest of the evening after a sedation.

The ultrasound report will be sent to your referring vet clinic on the day of the ultrasound. Your vet knows your pet best, and will discuss the ultrasound report with you and make a plan in light of this and other results. Therefore, when you collect your pet, unfortunately we will not be able to talk about any findings with you.

Please don't hesitate to ask any questions.

We look forward to meeting you soon,  
Warm Regards,

PetVet Lower Hutt

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