Ultrasound

has been used on pets since the 1980's to help diagnose a multitude of conditions. The technology uses ultrasound waves that are emitted from a hand-held probe placed on the surface of the skin. The ultrasound waves penetrate tissues and organs and are reflected back to the probe creating a pattern of waves that is then translated into an image. One of the primary benefits of ultrasound is that it is a non-invasive, non-painful procedure that typically can be performed without the use of anesthesia. This procedure also has a large margin of safety since it does not utilize radiation like a standard x-ray or other forms of potentially hazardous materials. It is also one of the best modalities available for evaluation of soft tissue structures.

Hours of Operation

Monday 8am - 8pm

Tuesday 8am - 8pm

Wednesday 8am - 8pm
6:30am Early Morning Check-In

Thursday 8am - 8pm

Friday 8am - 5pm

Saturday 8am - 3pm

Sunday Closed

For more Information or to Schedule a Consultation, please call: (920) 498-2808 or 800-236-2808.

www.packerlandvet.com

ULTRASOUND

Packerland
VETERINARY*Center, Ltd.*

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What can be visualized on Ultrasound?

Ultrasound allows us to view the internal architecture of organs, which may otherwise not be visible on x-ray. It can highlight and measure internal abnormalities such as nodules, masses, cysts and abscesses. Many different organs and structures can be viewed using ultrasound, including the liver, kidneys, bladder, adrenal glands, intestines, gallbladder, heart and uterus. It allows the veterinarian to assess the overall health of the organ, and visualize abnormalities such as tumors, stones and inflammatory changes. In the presence of a tumor, the ultrasound can be used to guide a biopsy needle for sampling of the abnormal tissue. Direct visualization with the ultrasound during a biopsy can help prevent puncturing blood vessels or other structures. Ultrasound also allows us to assess heart function by measuring qualities such as how well the heart muscle is contracting and the efficiency of blood flow through the heart valves. Additionally, ultrasound can diagnose and monitor pregnancy in animals. In animals, pregnancy can typically be diagnosed via ultrasound 21 days post-conception vs. x-ray which cannot diagnose pregnancy until 42 days post-conception.

Is anesthesia required for Ultrasound?

Typically ultrasound is performed in an awake individual. However, there are some instances where the patient is very uncooperative and may require a light tranquilizer. Biopsies are typically performed using a local anesthetic.

What should I do to prepare my pet for Ultrasound?

Please check with your doctor for specific pre-ultrasound requirements. Some general guidelines include:

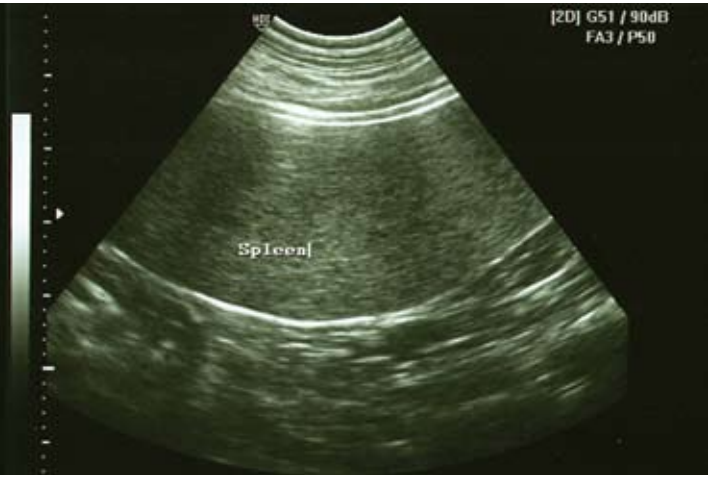
- No special preparation is needed for an ultrasound of the heart (echocardiogram). Please give all medications as you normally would, unless a change in the protocol is made by your veterinarian.
- Ultrasound of the bladder is best performed when the bladder is full, so please make sure your pet has access to water prior to the ultrasound and do not let them urinate 3-6 hours prior to the study.
- You may be instructed to with-hold your pet's food for 12 hours prior to an ultrasound of the abdomen, as food and stool present within the GI tract and can block visualization of structures.

What can I expect on the day of the Ultrasound?

Typically your ultrasound experience will begin by meeting with the doctor performing the study. This will allow them to get an accurate history of your pet, perform an exam and address any questions or concerns you may have. Depending upon your pet's needs, pre-ultrasound diagnostic tests may be required to assess organ function. If the doctor is anticipating your pet needing an ultrasound-guided biopsy, a clotting profile will be required to reduce the risk of bleeding during the procedure. In most cases, the hair over the area to be assessed will need to be shaved. It is imperative that the ultrasound probe make good contact with the skin to form a clear image. Additionally, a sterile ultrasound gel may be applied to the skin surface to enhance contact with the skin for better quality imaging. Your pet may need to remain with the hospital staff for several hours while the pre-ultrasound diagnostics and ultrasound study are performed. At the time of admittance, the doctor or technician can give you a more accurate idea of length of time anticipated for the procedure.

When will I know the results of the Ultrasound?

Since an ultrasound study is performed in real time, results of the study are typically known immediately and will be discussed with you by the veterinarian, however, information regarding any biopsy samples will not be available for 3-5 days. Tissue samples and aspirates are sent to an outside lab for histopathological evaluation by a pathologist. Once received, these results will be relayed to you by our veterinary or technical staff.



Spleen

Abnormal gall bladder with sludge present within the organ