

An ultrasound, also known as ultrasonography or sonographic imaging, is one of the non-invasive imaging modalities that are used in veterinary medicine. The procedure provides images of the internal structures of the body by recording echoes of ultrasonic waves. **This means, your vet can look inside your pet's body without having to perform surgery.** An abdominal ultrasound enables your vet to have a closer look at the organs in the abdominal cavity such as the liver, kidneys, stomach, spleen, pancreas, adrenal glands, intestines, bladder, uterus, ovaries, prostate, and lymph nodes.

### How is an ultrasound performed?

When your pet needs to have an abdominal ultrasound, fasting is necessary.

To perform an abdominal ultrasound, the abdomen of your pet will be shaved and a special conducting gel is applied onto the shaved surface. Shaving your pet's belly allows good contact between the skin and the ultrasound probe. The probe, which is a part of the ultrasound machine, emits sound waves and obtains the image. The procedure usually takes between 30-60 minutes. Dr. Myers will collect several images which are then submitted to a radiologist or internist for review and interpretation.

Most pets will be lightly sedated for the ultrasound. This helps to decrease your pet's movement and panting, allowing for better ultrasound images. Don't worry, Dr. Myers uses very mild and safe sedation and a technician is monitoring your pet at all times.

### Why is my vet recommending an ultrasound?

- Lack of appetite
- Unexplained weight loss
- Unexplained chronic digestive upsets (vomiting, diarrhea, constipation)
- Fluid in the chest and abdomen
- Evaluate the urinary tract for abnormalities in the urine (including changes in urinary habits)
- Abnormal results of blood work or x-rays
- A mass detected during a physical exam
- Determine the organ where the mass is located
- Determine the extent of spread of disease

- Cancer staging
- Determine the cause for abdominal pain
- Examine blood vessels for abnormalities
- Pregnancy confirmation
- Pre-surgery procedures
- Chronic infections
- **Senior pet monitoring: Catching problems early!**

When will I know the results of my pet's ultrasound?

Dr. Myers will call with routine ultrasound reports within 24-48 hours.

STAT ultrasound reports can be available within 6 hours for an additional charge.