

What to Expect for Your Pet's Ultrasound

Dear Pet Owner,

Thank you for choosing Garibaldi Veterinary Hospital or your pet's ultrasound. We understand that you may have questions or concerns about the procedure, and we want to provide you with clear information to help you prepare.

What is an Ultrasound?

An ultrasound is a non-invasive diagnostic tool that uses sound waves to create images of your pet's internal organs. It helps us evaluate conditions affecting the heart, abdomen, and other areas, allowing for accurate diagnosis and treatment planning.

Preparing for the Ultrasound

1. **Fasting:** Your pet may need to fast for 8-12 hours prior to the procedure. This helps ensure clearer images. Please follow the specific instructions provided by our team.
2. **Medications:** If your pet is on medications, please discuss this with us. Some medications may need to be adjusted prior to the ultrasound.
3. **Arrival Time:** Arrive at the clinic at least 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment to complete any necessary paperwork.

During the Ultrasound

1. **Initial Consultation:** Our veterinarian will discuss your pet's medical history and the reasons for the ultrasound. You'll have the opportunity to ask any questions.
2. **Procedure:**
 - Your pet will be positioned comfortably on an examination table and held carefully in place by two of our staff.
 - We will use clippers to shave the area of focus.
 - A special gel will be applied to the skin to help transmit sound waves.
 - The veterinarian will use a transducer to capture images. This process is painless and typically takes 30-60 minutes.
3. **Sedation:** In some cases, sedation may be necessary to keep your pet calm and still. We will discuss this with you beforehand and provide information about the sedation process if needed.

PHONE 604.898.9089 **FAX** 604.898.4808
LOCATION 40376 TANTALUS RD SQUAMISH BC
EMAIL INFO@GVH.CA www.gvh.ca

After the Ultrasound

1. **Recovery:** If your pet was sedated, they may need some time to recover before going home. We will monitor them until they are alert and comfortable.
2. **Results:** Our veterinarian will discuss preliminary findings with you shortly after the procedure. A detailed report may take a few days, and we will follow up with you regarding the results.
3. **Follow-Up Care:** Depending on the findings, additional tests or treatments may be recommended. We will provide a tailored plan based on your pet's needs.

FAQs

Is the procedure safe? Yes, ultrasounds are safe and have no known side effects.

Can I be present during the ultrasound? For the comfort of your pet, we ask owners to wait in the reception area.

What if my pet is anxious? If your pet experiences anxiety, please let us know in advance so we can take steps to make the experience as comfortable as possible.

Do you specialize in this area? While board certification in veterinary ultrasonography provides additional training and expertise, in British Columbia, veterinarians who have completed continuing education courses are able to provide point of care ultrasonography. All cardiac ultrasounds performed by Dr. Honey are sent to a board certified cardiologist for interpretation. Dr. Honey is experienced and adept at performing and interpreting ultrasound procedures to ensure the health and well-being of your pets. If you have any questions about the ultrasound procedure, don't hesitate to ask them directly. If a more detailed evaluation or advanced imaging is required, Dr. Honey will refer pets to board-certified specialists in veterinary radiology.

Contact Us

If you have any further questions or concerns about your pet's ultrasound, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [Contact Information]. We are here to help and ensure your pet receives the best possible care.

Thank you for trusting Garibaldi Veterinary Hospital with your pet's health!

Warm regards,
Your Garibaldi Veterinary Hospital Team
www.gvh.ca

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