



Veterinary Specialists of Alaska, P.C. Client Information Sheet:

Ultrasound and Echocardiography

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Ultrasound

Whereas conventional radiographs (x-rays) allow assessment of size, shape and position of internal organs, ultrasound allows evaluation of the inner character of these organs. Abnormal organ texture can alert the veterinarian to conditions such as liver disease, kidney disease, stones of the urinary bladder, abscesses, and cancer. If abnormal tissues are detected during the ultrasonographic examination, and if the patient is stable enough, tissue samples may be obtained by performing ultrasound guided fine needle aspirates. With this technique, a small needle is inserted into the organ of question, for example the urinary bladder, and fluid or tissue samples are collected. These can then be examined using specific laboratory analyses, and it may be possible to diagnose a disease process without putting the patient through a more invasive procedure.

Echocardiography

Ultrasonography can also be used to evaluate organs in the chest, such as the heart or lungs. Ultrasonography of the heart is also referred to as echocardiography. Echocardiography allows assessment of heart valves, thickness of the heart muscle, size of the heart chambers and much more. Based on the findings during the echocardiographic examination, your pet's heart disease may be diagnosed and appropriately treated. In order to optimize our diagnostics it is in some cases necessary to consult with a board-certified radiologist or cardiologist.

Veterinary Specialists of Alaska, P.C. is dedicated to providing excellent veterinary care. Our goal is that ultimately, both you and your pet benefit from our expertise, specialized training and state of the art equipment. We would be delighted to work with you and your pet. For directions or more information, please contact us at any time, or use the "Direction" – function on our website www.VSOAK.com.

Your VSOAK Team