



**HOURS**  
Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm

VSG Hospital UNITEC  
97 Carrington Road, Mt Albert, Auckland  
Phone (09) 845 5455 Fax (09) 845 5456

# **VSG**

## **Imaging Suite Outpatient Service Information.**

### **What special preparation is required by the owner prior to arrival for the outpatient appointment?**

A fasting period prior to the procedure is essential as ingesta and gas can diminish image quality. No food should be given from 8pm the night prior to the examination and no water from 7am. Management of special cases, such as those patients with diabetes, should be checked with the staff in the imaging suite prior to the day of appointment.

### **What happens during the radiographic study?**

The patient is socialised within the department so that the examination can be achieved without sedation. The patient is held for a series of three thoracic radiographs. The radiologist examines the images to determine whether further radiographs are required.

### **What happens during the ultrasound examination?**

Hair is frequently clipped over the area to be examined in order that the probe can make contact with the skin. Hair can hinder imaging and for this reason clipping is necessary and then optimal image quality can be achieved. The procedure is performed in a quiet, darkened environment, and most patients tolerate ultrasound without the need for sedation.

### **Are patients given anaesthetic?**

Patients being admitted to the hospital for outpatient imaging examinations do not require anaesthetic to complete the examination. Sedation may be required in some patients to obtain diagnostic ultrasound and radiographs. Sedation will only be given if necessary and the referring veterinarian has indicated that it is safe to do so. Sedation will be given only if the owner has given permission on the admission form. It is important to inform the radiologist of previous adverse reactions to sedative and anaesthetic drugs.

### **How long will the patient stay in the hospital?**

The patient is admitted to the hospital as a day stay patient. Admissions are made between 8-9am on the day of appointment. As most patients are ill, we try to avoid sedation. Allowing the patient to stay for several hours in the hospital results in them becoming more relaxed with the environment. If necessary we can perform the study in several stages that the patient will better tolerate. We ask that owners call reception at 12pm to organise a discharge time.

**Does the patient's owner need to stay?**

In most cases the procedure is carried out some time after the patient is admitted to the hospital. Because animals are unpredictable in how they respond to the hospital environment, it is impossible to predict the actual time the examination will take per individual. To ensure clients are not waiting for several hours we recommend the clients be prepared to leave the patient and return later in the day to pick them up. In some special cases the client may be asked to wait whilst the procedure is completed.

**When and how are the results available following the examination?**

Reporting is done by the radiologist on the same day as the examination. Urgent reports are completed promptly after the examination. Non-urgent reports are sent to the referring veterinarian by the end of the same day. Clients of outpatient referrals see their own veterinarian for the results and do not see the radiologist at discharge. The reason for this is that the referring veterinarian continues to manage the case, while the results of the imaging aid in the diagnosis of the case.

**What happens after the procedure?**

Additional diagnostics or a treatment regime will be advised by your own veterinarian in most cases. In some cases the referring veterinarian may request assistance from other hospital based specialists. The co-ordination of additional specialist involvement will involve the referring veterinarian, with assistance from the radiologist.

**Who keeps the images?**

Images produced during the procedure are retained by the hospital for a period of 7 years. The images remain the property of Veterinary Specialist Group.