

What you need to know about Ultrasounds & FNAs

From The Veterinary Internal Medicine Group

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is an ultrasound?

- Ultrasounds are soundwaves that create a moving image on a monitor. **You've seen an ultrasound if you've ever seen a doctor use gel & a wand to check on a baby during pregnancy.** We use the same machine for pets.

Your pet needs to be perfectly still to get a clear ultrasound image, so a small dose of sedative is needed.

- Even if you think your pet doesn't move much, **their abdominal muscles need to be relaxed so we can get the absolute clearest image.** They cannot be fidgeting or rolling over, so they need a small sedative.
- The sedative lasts just long enough for us to do the procedure and dissipates in about 15 minutes.

Sometimes an ultrasound is followed by a Fine Needle Aspirate (FNA)

- A fine needle aspirate is a procedure to obtain a sample of tissues/organs (liver, kidneys, etc).
- **In many cases, an FNA can eliminate the need for a BIOPSY— which would involve cutting skin/surgery.**
- As the name implies, a **very fine needle is used. It's smaller than needles used for drawing blood in humans.** Discomfort is minimal.

*NOTE: Not every pet will need a fine needle aspirate, but we ask that you give your vet consent **ahead of time** in case one is recommended during the ultrasound. **Doing the FNA in the same visit means a faster diagnosis.***

BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE

Make sure your pet is fasting for 8 hours prior to procedure

- If your pet has diabetes or chronically low blood sugar, **this does not apply.**
- Fasting ensures that food inside the stomach does not obstruct the view as we look at nearby organs (such as the pancreas, gallbladder, etc).

Your pet's abdomen will be shaved

- **Fur / hair Interferes with the sound waves, so the vet will shave the area to ensure a clear ultrasound image.**

AFTER YOUR PROCEDURE

For the fastest diagnosis, we give your vet our verbal findings **ON-THE-SPOT**

- Your vet will also get a full report by our board-certified internist – within 24 hours

***Thank you for trusting us with your pet's diagnosis,**
Dr. Pedro Armstrong, DVM, DACVIM & The VIMG Team*

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