



Billings Animal Family Hospital 1321 N. 27th St Billings, MT 406-245-4772

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOUR PET HAS AN ULTRASOUND EXAM

Your pet has been referred for an ultrasound exam of either the abdomen or the heart. These are some important things to know before you go, so you know what to expect.

- Please don't feed your pet immediately before the exam. Patients with an empty stomach are easier to examine, because there isn't the interference of food or gas in the stomach/intestines.
- Your pet will be taken to the ultrasound room without you; the staff must restrain the animals so that they are still during the exam. This allows for a quicker exam, better images, and a better chance for obtaining useful information. Most pets do very well without their owners present as sometimes they become anxious knowing you are in the room, but not right next to them. If the exam is for pregnancy, once pregnancy is confirmed, the doctor will invite you back to the ultrasound suite to view the images.
- The hair will need to be shaved. For an abdominal ultrasound this will be the entire abdominal area; pregnancy and bladder ultrasounds don't require the whole abdomen to be shaved. For heart ultrasounds, the right side of the chest behind the right leg will be shaved in a large square area. Occasionally the left side will need to be shaved as well.
- Most pets will not require any sedation, and the ultrasound procedure is painless. The pet must be restrained either on their side (for heart) or on their back (for abdomen) on a padded table or in a padded trough.
- The ultrasound exam can take between 30-60 minutes, depending on what is being scanned. You may choose to wait or leave your pet, depending on your schedule and the schedule at the hospital.
- Your pet will be returned to you and the doctor will discuss the findings with you.