

PREPARING FOR YOUR PET'S ULTRASOUND WITH PAUS

Your vet has referred your pet to us at Perth Animal Ultrasound (PAUS) for an ultrasound examination. Please read carefully the information below:

Confirming your appointment

Once your vet has sent the request through to us, we will contact you to confirm the appointment time and date. You will be requested to pay a deposit of \$100 over the phone or via a payment link, which will be deducted from the total on the day of the examination. This deposit is non-refundable in the event of late cancellation (less than 24 hours' notice).

Location:

Our outpatient facility is located at **11/233 Berrigan Drive, Jandakot, WA 6164**. PAUS is located in the same building as Perth Pet Vet: There are 2 sets of doors - we have our own entrance through the doors on the RIGHT, immediately under the PAUS sign.

Fasting your pet:

Your pet should be FASTED for a minimum of 8 hours prior to their ultrasound. Not only does this reduce risk with any required sedation for ultrasound of any region, but for abdominal ultrasound in particular, the presence of food in the stomach or intestinal tract can significantly interfere with our ability to assess the gut and other abdominal structures. There are some exceptions to this rule (e.g. diabetic patients) – please check with your vet if you are unsure.

Anti-anxiety medication

If your pet gets stressed or anxious, it may be appropriate to arrange for anti-anxiety medications to be prescribed by your vet prior to visiting PAUS, to be administered on the day of the scan. These medications can be particularly helpful for cats undergoing cardiac ultrasound, where the types of sedatives available to us are more limited. Please discuss with your vet if your pet normally receives these types of medications or may benefit from them for the ultrasound.

Dropping off and collecting your patient for examination

Please arrive 5-10 minutes before your appointment time to sign necessary paperwork. We have very limited waiting area space and a small team, so we are unlikely to be able to attend to you or your pet earlier than your scheduled appointment time. When you arrive, you will be greeted by one of our Veterinary Nurses or support staff who will confirm all your details, scan your pet's microchip, and run through the consent form with you. This covers sedation, ultrasound examination, and any additional procedures requested by your vet (e.g. obtaining urine, fluid or samples of organs or lesions by ultrasound guidance), You will leave your pet with us for 30-90 minutes (depending on the booked procedure/s and level of sedation required for your pet), and we will call you when they are ready to go.

Once we call you to inform you that your pet can be collected, you may be advised to return straight back to your regular vet, or to return home for a scheduled appointment at a later date to discuss the results. With the exception of diagnosis of urgent conditions requiring immediate attention by your vet, no results are discussed at the time of the examination.

The ultrasound examination & sedation

A complete abdominal or cardiac ultrasound takes between 20-30 minutes, and a bi-cavity examination (both cardiac and abdominal) 40-50minutes. For us to perform most ultrasound examinations, some level of sedation is usually required. This helps to significantly reduce patient stress and facilitates examination of all structures in the region of interest. Sedation is given “to effect”, which means that your pet should not require a lengthy recovery time before being discharged. We consider any relevant conditions, medications and any other relevant factors when choosing a sedation protocol. IV cannulas are placed on arrival, and your pet will receive oxygen therapy throughout the procedure. The cost of the majority of our procedures includes whatever level of sedation is necessary to carry out the scan(s) effectively. Sedation is NOT administered for pregnancy ultrasounds. Your pet’s fur may be shaved on the leg for IV cannula placement and will be shaved in the region of examination. E.g., for cardiac ultrasounds, fur is clipped on both sides of the chest, and for abdominal ultrasound, from the sternum to the pelvis and to the edge of the abdomen on both sides. For some deep-chested dogs, we also shave the fur over the ribs. If your vet has requested other procedures to be performed (e.g. obtaining urine or fine needle aspirates of an organ or lesion), these can usually be performed on the same day. **Please note are unable to provide any services other than ultrasound and ultrasound-guided procedures (including nail clips, etc.).**

Reports

A full written report will be provided to your vet within 1 day of your pet’s ultrasound. We may also contact them by phone if we diagnose a condition requiring their urgent attention, or surgery.

Payment

Payment is required at the time of examination. We accept **card payments only** (no cash). At this time, we are unable to offer Zip Pay or other payment plans.

Important Notice

Perth Animal Ultrasound is a dedicated veterinary ultrasound service that has been operating since 2019 (previously trading as ImagingFirst). PAUS provides ultrasound services to a large number of clinics across the Perth region, and recently opened its’ doors in Jandakot to accept patients on an outpatient basis. The service is operated by a vet with several post-graduate qualifications and extensive experience in ultrasound and related procedures, but this vet is not a specialist in veterinary radiology. There are occasions in which it would be appropriate to refer your pet to one of these specialists, for advanced imaging (CT, MRI, other) or for a specialist ultrasound opinion.

If you have any questions, please let your vet know if before your appointment with us. If they cannot answer your query, please contact us on 08 9335 5080.

Pre-appointment checklist:

- Appointment confirmed via text or email with PAUS
- Deposit paid over the phone or via link
- Pet fasted before appointment (unless advised otherwise)
- Book appointment with your regular vet to discuss results (unless advised otherwise)

We look forward to meeting you!