



To our referring colleagues,

In recent months, we have received an increasing number of requests for radiologist review of ultrasound images obtained by general practitioners. This is a service that we are happy to provide. However, our ability to provide an accurate and diagnostic interpretation is directly dependent on the quality of the images being submitted to us. Interpretation of studies obtained by an untrained sonographer can often lead to frustration on the part of the referring veterinarian, the radiologist and ultimately, the client.

In order to provide you with the best possible service, we request the following:

1. The RDVM has attended a formal course in ultrasonography.
2. The RDVM is capable of obtaining images of the abdominal structures outlined below. While this list below may appear extensive, please know that these images are considered to be part of a standard ultrasonographic study for every patient being scanned by a NWWI radiologist or sonographer.

Liver

- Sonographer should be able to assess the entire liver, including using intercostal windows when necessary.
- Complete evaluation of the gall bladder. Images of the biliary ducts should be included if enlarged.

Spleen

- The entire spleen including head, body and tail should be assessed.
- Splenic vascular structures

Left and right kidneys

- Mid-sagittal (including a pole to pole measurement)
- Mid-transverse

Left and right adrenal glands

- Images of both glands should include a short axis measurement

Urinary bladder

- Images should include one sagittal view of the trigone

Sublumbar region

- Blood vessels
- Lymph nodes

GI tract

- Stomach
- Pylorus
- Duodenum
- Jejunum (with measurements of wall thicknesses)
- Colon
- Ileocecolic junction (cats only)

Pancreas

- Right and left limbs
- When pancreatic parenchyma cannot be clearly identified, images of the area of the pancreas should suffice

Mid-abdominal region

- Jejunal lymph nodes

Reproductive tract

- Ovaries and uterus if present
- Testicles if present
- Prostate

Pathology

- Still images in multiple planes and cine loop(s).

In general, we do not recommend that partial studies be submitted, as there is the chance that important pathology can be missed.

Cine loops of normal anatomy are not necessary and can significantly increase the amount of time it takes to both upload and download these studies.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to support you in providing high quality care to your patients and clients.

In partnership,
Northwest Veterinary Imaging