

South Paws Outpatient CT/MRI Imaging Process

Referring Veterinarians:

After you have examined your patient and feel a CT or MRI study is recommended, you or your client may call us at 985-809-1590 to schedule an appointment. If you do not have copies of our current CT/MRI referral forms at your office, we can fax them or you may download them from our website.

Outpatient CT/MRIs will be supervised by a South Paws veterinarian, who will be assisted by CT/MRI-trained registered veterinary technician. Anesthesia protocols will be overseen by the veterinarian and a trained anesthesia technician will assist in monitoring. An approximate cost is \$1200-1400 for the imaging, anesthesia, and consultation with the radiologist/neurologist. Additional charges may include: CSF collection and fluid analysis, bloodwork, etc.

An outpatient CT/MRI referral will consist of either a CT or MRI procedure. The films are then either sent to a board certified veterinary radiologist or to the NeuroWebVet tele-neurology service, based on the case and area being imaged. Our doctors will not consult, examine, or make treatment recommendations for any Outpatient CT/MRI patients unless otherwise directed by you. We understand these are your patients, and want the outpatient MRI service to be an extension of your own practice. We will provide you with timely, personal contact and reports, so you may diagnose and treat your patients quickly and efficiently. So that you retain complete control of case management, we will not discuss any specific results or treatment options directly with your client. We will, however, be available to consult on surgical cases if you should desire us to do so.

- ❖ *Referrals to the South Paws Surgery Service will be consulted, examined, and treated as always by our surgery team.*

Important Checklist for Referral:

- 1) Please complete the South Paws CT/MRI Outpatient Referral Form with history, physical or neurological exam, and area to be scanned. Please note on this form if a CSF tap and fluid analysis is requested for your patient (additional fees apply.) *Additionally, for neurology (Brain studies) cases, an additional form must be completed for submission to NeuroWebVet (see #2.)*
- 2) For all neurological-related cases: Please complete the NeuroWebVet neurological exam form for submission to the neurologist. In order to get the most from your neurology consult, please be thorough and detailed in your exam findings.
- 3) Please provide a current pre-anesthetic blood panel (CBC/Chemistry.) Additionally, any other pertinent past medical history or medical issues should be submitted. Paperwork may be faxed to 985-809-1591, emailed to SouthPawsVet@gmail.com, or sent with the client. The referring veterinarian should examine and clear the patient for anesthesia prior to their appointment. Alternatively, bloodwork can be performed here at South Paws for an additional charge.



****Please Note:** For Outpatient CT/MRI services, no consultation or exam will be provided by our surgeons. *Any animals needing a surgical consult, workup, +/- surgery should schedule through the South Paws Surgery Service as normal.*

4) Upon arrival at South Paws, the client will have the CT/MRI and anesthesia process explained, as well as potential risks and complications of the procedures to be performed. At that time, they will be presented with a consent form for the anesthesia, CT/MRI imaging, and CSF collection (if requested.)

5) Patients will meet with our advanced imaging technician at 9:00am and 9:30am. All pertinent information, including medical records, results of recent blood work, ultrasounds or cardiology workups, etc., should be faxed to us in advance of the appointment. Lab results older than 8 weeks may need to be repeated, depending on the patient's condition. **A specific anatomic site must be identified by the referring veterinarian requesting the test.** Our doctors will not be involved in lesion localization for "outpatient" MRIs or CT exams.

Reports

- **Radiology Consultation:** All images will be reviewed in detail by a veterinary board-certified radiologist with years of experience interpreting MRI and CT studies. The images will be sent via telemedicine to a boarded veterinary radiologist (who specializes in MRI/CT) for consultation and report. The images will be burned to a CD or flash drive and given to the client. All radiology reports will be faxed within 24 hours to the referring veterinarian.
- **NeuroWebVet Consultation:** In addition to the MRI/CT interpretation and report, neurology cases can also receive a tele-neurology consultation through NeuroWebVet, using a board-certified neurologist. There is no additional charge for this service! Additionally, you may follow up with the neurologist for consultation on your patient up to 5 times for future case management. This gives you excellent follow-up capability for changes in your patient's treatment or condition.



Indications for Diagnostic MRI

- Cervical, Thoracolumbar or Lumbosacral Pain
- Lameness & Ataxia, Tendon & Ligament Injuries
- Paraparesis, Hemiparesis, Tetraparesis, Hypermetria / Dysmetria
- Urinary Control & Defecation Difficulties
- Non-Orthopedic Muscle Atrophy
- Edema of Unknown Origin
- Soft Tissue & Neurological Trauma
- Seizures & Tremors, Head Tilt & Vestibular Symptoms
- Nasal / Paranasal Sinus Diseases
- Blindness, Anisocoria, Strabismus, or Horner's Symptoms
- Facial Paralysis & Dysphagia
- Hiding, Head Pressing, or other Behavioral Changes
- Tumors & Oncology Issues

Indications for Diagnostic CT

- **Fracture Evaluation – Surgical Planning**
- **Nasal/sinus disease** - Helps differentiate neoplasia from rhinitis and guides biopsy.
- **Bone and Soft Tissue Tumors** - Accurately shows the tumor margins for surgical planning.
- **Middle/Inner Ear Evaluation** - determines the need for bulla osteotomy.
- **Head/Skull Trauma** - Increased sensitivity for fracture identification and brain hemorrhage
- **Elbows Dysplasia** - Allows diagnosis of fragmented medial coronoid, OCD, and incongruity.
- **Intervertebral Disc Disease, Lumbosacral disease, Cervical IVDD**
- **Thoracic Metastatic Check** – Significant increase in sensitivity over radiographs.
- **Evaluation of Mediastinal and Lung Masses**- Enhances surgical planning by evaluating the extent of vascular invasion and screens for hilar metastasis.
- **Evaluate for pituitary macroadenomas**- Present in ~10% of pituitary dependent hyperadrenocorticism cases.
- **Brain scans**- Allows visualization of most brain tumors, but much less sensitive than MRI for tumors, inflammatory, and vascular conditions.
- **Urinary System** - Diagnosis of ectopic ureters and ureteral stones, bladder masses, urethral trauma.
- **Portogram and Vascular Studies**

