

# South Paws Outpatient MRI Imaging Process

## Referring Veterinarians:

After you have examined your patient and feel an 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 MRI referral forms at your office, we can fax them or you may download them from our website.

Outpatient MRIs will be supervised by a South Paws veterinarian, who will be assisted by MRI-trained registered veterinary technicians. Anesthesia protocols will be overseen by the veterinarian and a trained anesthesia technician will assist in monitoring.

Outpatient MRI referrals will consist of the MRI procedure and a radiology/neurology consultation only. Our doctors will not consult, examine, or make treatment recommendations for any referral 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 MRI Outpatient Referral Form with history, physical - 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 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 985-809-1590, 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.

Please Note: For Outpatient MRI services, no consultation or exam will be provided by our surgical doctors. *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 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, MRI imaging, and CSF collection (if requested).

5) Patients will meet with our MRI 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 4 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.

## Reports

- All images will be reviewed in detail by a veterinary board-certified radiologist with years of experience interpreting MRI studies. The images will be sent via telemedicine to a boarded veterinary radiologist (who specializes in MRI) for consultation and report. The images will be burned to a CD to give to the client. All radiology reports will be faxed within 24 hours to the referring veterinarian.
- **NeuroWebVet Consultation:** In addition to the MRI interpretation and report, neurology cases will also receive a teleneurology 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.

## Cost and Services

Please call for prices and availability. 985-809-1590

## Indications & Symptoms 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

