



Kindness and Care for Animals®

Outpatient Ultrasound Client Information Sheet

Angell Animal Medical Center is now offering outpatient ultrasounds in our Boston and Waltham locations for the feline and canine patients of all veterinarians in our area. At the request of your veterinarian, your pet may come to Angell for an abdominal ultrasound even if they do not regularly see an Angell veterinarian. Please read the following information to see if this service is a good fit for you and your pet.

Is my pet a good candidate for an outpatient ultrasound?

This service is meant to provide imaging for stable patients; those in need of medical, surgical, or emergency care should be seen by a veterinarian here at Angell to determine the best course of action for your pet.

How do I set up an abdominal ultrasound (AUS) appointment for my stable pet?

Either you, or your local veterinarian who is referring you to our outpatient ultrasound service, may call to set up an appointment. Our standard appointments in Boston are Monday through Friday at 11am, however we may be able to work with you if you cannot make that time. AUS appointments at Angell West in Waltham vary, but are Monday through Friday and alternating Saturdays. We will need to know if you have ever been seen at Angell Animal Medical Center before, even if it was with another pet. The telephone numbers to call to set this up are **617-541-5139 (Boston)** or **781-902-8400 x4000 (Waltham)**. If you get our voicemail please leave your name, phone number and a brief description of the reason for your call. We will return your call within 24 hours.

If you call and set up an appointment, a member of the Diagnostic Imaging staff will then contact your referring vet for your pet's medical history, including vaccination status and reason for referring for an ultrasound. We have a standardized form that your referring veterinarian must fill out before the day of the ultrasound appointment that gives the radiologist the pertinent information they need to perform the exam. We will also make sure your local veterinarian or an associate of theirs will be able to go over the ultrasound examination results with you after the study has been performed.

What questions should I ask my veterinarian before my pet comes in for an abdominal ultrasound?

Before you come in for this procedure, you may want your veterinarian to go over whether or not our Angell radiologist should perform a fine needle aspirate on your dog or cat if applicable during the study (see Frequently Asked Questions below) and what to do in the event your pet requires sedation to perform either the ultrasound study or the fine needle aspirate. Fine needle aspirates are not available for **outpatient AUS at Angell West** in Waltham. They can be performed at Angell West via an Angell West Internal Medicine appointment.

Should my pet be fasted before an abdominal ultrasound?

Yes, please withhold your pet's food beginning at 12 midnight the night before (day of) the exam. You may give your pet water at any time before the exam. If your pet has medical issues that make fasting not possible, such as diabetes, please let us know. The fasting is important because a full stomach can make it difficult to see some abdominal organs.

What will happen on the day of my pet's abdominal ultrasound?

On the day of your pet's scheduled referral ultrasound exam please arrive at Angell approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled exam time. You will be checked in at the front desk and be shown to the Diagnostic Imaging waiting room. A valid driver's license or state ID is required for check-in. The technician dedicated to ultrasound will then greet you and your pet in the waiting room and take your pet back to the ultrasound suite for the examination. The ultrasound scan will take approximately 30 minutes. After the study we will return your pet to you in the waiting room. You will then be able to check out at the front desk. The radiologist who performed the ultrasound will fax a report of their findings to your veterinarian after completing the exam. At our Angell West location, you will wait in the main waiting room, and our Internal Medicine doctor will perform the ultrasound and will fax a report of their findings to your veterinarian after completing the exam.

In the event that our specialist finds something of concern that needs to be immediately addressed while performing the ultrasound, they or another Angell veterinarian will advise you of their findings in person. You can then decide how you would like to proceed.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a fine needle aspirate?

A fine needle aspirate is a tissue sample obtained by inserting a small-gauge needle into an abnormal appearing structure or organ. The sample is placed on a slide and can then be submitted to our pathology department for interpretation. These are not routinely performed on an outpatient basis, as some animals will require sedation prior to obtaining a fine needle aspirate.

Will my pet need to be sedated?

We will always make an attempt to perform our studies without sedation. The majority of the time we are successful; however, there is a possibility we will need to sedate your pet. We will never do this without your permission and without your pet getting a physical examination here at Angell before we sedate. Sedation consists of a mild injectable sedative medication that helps reduce anxiety in most patients. Your pet will not be placed under general anesthesia.

What is the cost for this service?

Please call us at 617 541 5139 for the price of the abdominal ultrasound and related services.

Payment: Payment may be made by cash or credit card and is due at the time of service.