

Dear Colleagues,

Angell West in Waltham offers **outpatient ultrasound exams** which are performed and interpreted by Dr. Daniela Vrabelova Ackley, MS, DACVIM, our internal medicine doctor, using our state-of-the-art Xario 200 machine.

In order to provide the best service for your patients we would like to inform you about the following important details of our protocol:

1. These ultrasounds are offered only for **stable patients that DO NOT require sedation, hospitalization or an internal medicine consult**. If needed, an internal medicine consult can be pursued in the future (especially if there are ultrasonographic findings requiring a fine-needle aspiration due to enlarged intra-abdominal lymph nodes or a mass or if cystocentesis is needed). In most cases the internal medicine consult will be scheduled for a different day, at which time these additional procedures would be performed. Some patients require sedation for acquisition of a high quality ultrasonographic image (large panting dogs, fractious cats). Please, give us a call PRIOR to scheduling of such a patient. Otherwise, the owners will be told to reschedule the exam, and would not be charged for the original appointment. If you have a patient that you feel would benefit from an internal medicine consult in addition to an abdominal ultrasound, this patient can be booked into a traditional internal medicine appointment slot. Patients in need of urgent surgical or emergency care should be referred to one of those services directly.
2. The appointments will **last one hour**, and the internist performing the exam will call you after completion of the exam to discuss the findings. **A full report will be e-mailed or faxed to the referring veterinarian** the same day. The results are only communicated to the referring veterinarian and NOT discussed with the client. A CD of the ultrasound images is available on request. Clients should be encouraged to direct follow up questions to you, their primary care doctor of record. The internal medicine doctor does not typically speak to the client at the completion of the study.
3. Clients will not be present during the ultrasound but are welcome to wait in our lobby. If they opt to leave and come back, they will be asked to provide an emergency contact and sign "a consent to stabilize" in case of emergency. An additional boarding fee will be charged for these cases in which the owners elect not to wait during the appointment. A pet left beyond scheduled pick up time will incur additional charges.
4. If there is an emergency with a patient that has been left with us, we will stabilize the patient until the owner is contacted and returns to the hospital. The owner will be responsible for the charges incurred. They will then be referred back to your hospital (we will call you to discuss the case prior to transfer) or can continue care with our emergency service here at Angell West.
5. Should the ultrasound exam results warrant urgent intervention, at your discretion and in consultation with the client, you should prepare the client for possible admission to

the hospital via the emergency service. We can facilitate this process if required. Additional fees will be incurred.

6. If you have a case that you feel would benefit from an outpatient ultrasound, please fill out the attached form and fax it to us at (781)-622-1410. After the form has been faxed, please call our office at 781-902-8400 x4000 from 8-6 on Monday-Friday and ask to speak with one of our internal medicine technicians, who will confirm receipt of the form and make sure that we have all relevant information. They will then contact the client to schedule the appointment and answer any questions. Referral paperwork, records and radiographs should be received at least 24 hours in advance to be able provide you with meaningful comments.
7. In general, patients should be **fasted 12 hours** (except for diabetic patients and suspected insulinoma cases) and have a **full urinary bladder**. They can have access to water at all times. Please discuss this with your clients.
8. Please, let the client know that their pet will have a clipped belly for the procedure.
9. The clients will be charged \$437.75, which includes a full abdominal ultrasound, telephone report from the internist performing the exam, and same-day written report. You are welcome to call Dr. Ackley if you have any questions regarding the ultrasonographic findings.
10. Outpatient ultrasound appointment slots will be available every Monday-Friday, as well as every other Saturday. Times vary depending on the day.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office at 781-902-8400 x4000 (ask for Dr. Ackley or one of our internal medicine technicians).

Sincerely,
Dr. Daniela Vrabelova Ackley, MS, DACVIM



Internal Medicine Department
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OUTPATIENT ULTRASOUND REFERRAL

Please fill out and fax this form to 781-622-1410 before calling to schedule an appointment. Please fax recent records, bloodwork, etc with this referral form.

Referring Veterinary Hospital: _____

Contact Doctor _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Would you prefer to have the written report faxed or e-mailed?

Circle one: fax e-mail

Client name _____ Patient name _____

Client address _____

Client Phone _____ Patient DOB _____

Patient- Species _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Color _____

Date of most recent rabies vaccination _____ 1yr ___ 3yr ___

(Patient must be up to date on rabies vaccine)

What is the presenting complaint/reason for this ultrasound?

What are your differential diagnoses? _____

Abnormal diagnostic results at your clinic _____

Please list significant past medical history _____
