

VCA Shoreline Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center

895 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton, CT 06484

P 203-929-8600 F 203-944-9754 vcashoreline.com

Outpatient ultrasound (OPUS) guidelines for owners

- A member of our team will meet you in the reception area and review the main reason of why an OPUS is being performed.
 - We typically get a brief case summary from your primary veterinarian (pDVM) as well.
- We will confirm with you that your pet has been fasted (at least 10 hours of no food, they can have water)
 - If your pet has not been fasted, it can affect the ability to obtain quality diagnostic images. Ultrasounds can still be performed, but understand the limitations that it can have on findings.
- We will clip the hair from the abdomen of your pet, apply alcohol and gel for the ultrasound. Occasionally, minor razor burns can occur.
- The OPUS takes usually about 20 minutes to perform.
- The final OPUS report will be emailed to your pDVM by the end of the day. Your pDVM will be the one going over results and recommendations with you.
 - Our internal medicine specialist will not discuss the OPUS results with you, we rely on your pDVM to communicate findings.
- If your pet needs sedation for the US, we will provide the option to be seen through the ER for an exam required prior to administering sedation. Alternatively, you can reschedule and discuss options with your pDVM for mild sedative medications to be administered under their direction prior to the OPUS.

I agree to all of these guidelines.

Owner/Agent Signature:

Date:



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Outpatient ultrasound (OPUS) guidelines for primary veterinarians

We are able to facilitate OPUS on select days, please contact us to discuss availability.

Please send us in advance a summary of the case with relevant recent diagnostic tests and treatments performed.

This is not a consult, so previous medical records are not reviewed thoroughly, the pet is not examined, and vitals/weight are not taken.

- Example: dog presenting for chronic progressive elevation of liver values, despite a three week course of clavamox (finished on 8-28-23) and being on denamarin for three months. Recent blood results from 8-28-23 was Alt 460, Alp 340 (normal bile acid test)

Indications for an OPUS:

- OPUS are appropriate for stable patients that need an abdominal ultrasound to further guide you about underlying causes and next steps to follow. A referral from a primary dvm is required.
- OPUS are not appropriate for:
 - Patients that need sedation to have the ultrasound performed. There are two options for these patients:
 1. You can prescribe a mild sedative to be administered before the appointment.
 2. The patient can have the US performed after being examined by an ER doctor and being cleared for sedation (additional charges apply).
 - Patients that require further testing like FNAs of possible masses, cystocentesis, abdominocentesis, etc

Communication of OPUS results:

- The OPUS report will be emailed within 24 hours of completion.
- The OPUS results are NOT provided to the client, we rely on you communicating results with them
 - Exceptions: if there are sinister findings that require immediate medical attention (severe hemoabdomen, foreign body, etc.) we do communicate these findings to the owner and offer them options (but is not a formal consult)

Please inform your clients "what to expect the day of the OPUS":

- A team member will meet the client in the reception area and review the main presenting complaint
- We confirm that the patient has been fasted (at least 10 hours of no food, they can have water)
- If the patient has not been fasted, it can affect the ability to obtain quality diagnostic images
- Ultrasounds can still be performed, but understand the limitations that it can have on findings
- We inform the client about clipping the pet's abdomen (and advise them about the possibility of minor razor burns) and apply alcohol and gel
- We inform them the communication of OPUS results policies as described above

