



## **ULTRASONOGRAPHY**

We perform both **abdominal and heart ultrasound (echo)** at the Greenlane veterinary clinic.

### **How to prepare your pet for an ultrasound:**

An ultrasound is a non-invasive procedure so there is not much preparation for you to do. Your pet will stay with us for the day for us to perform the ultrasound. They must be fasted overnight. This means nothing to eat after 10pm and no breakfast. Water is fine.

### **What happens to my pet during an ultrasound?**

In order to perform an ultrasound we must shave the hair away from the area to be investigated.

- For heart ultrasounds this means your pet will be shaved under both armpits to allow us to visualise the heart. They either lie on their side or sit for this procedure.
- For abdominal ultrasounds we will shave their entire abdomen from the end of their rib cage to their pelvis and both sides. We must shave this much hair to ensure that we can see all of the abdominal organs by ultrasound. They either lie on their side or their back for this procedure.

### **Will my pet be sedated?**

Often animals needing an abdominal ultrasound have a sore abdomen – these pets require pain relief. This also acts to relax most pets a little too. Occasionally we will need to sedate your pet if they won't allow shaving or won't lie still for the ultrasound. This is a light sedation which we will discuss with you before administering it to your pet.

### **What happens if we find an abnormality?**

If we see an abnormality in the abdomen it is preferable to obtain samples of the abnormal tissue to send to the laboratory for analysis. We use a very thin needle to take a sample of the abnormal tissue – this procedure is called an FNA (fine needle aspirate). The small needle minimises discomfort for your pet and reduces the risk of complications. However, because the needle is so small, only approximately 50% of FNA's are diagnostic. It is still a good first line of investigation as it is not very invasive. If the samples are non-diagnostic surgery and biopsies may be indicated. All areas to be sampled are checked for blood vessels before sampling, however, there is a small risk of bleeding after FNA's are performed. We like to keep animals in our care for 3-4 hrs after an ultrasound to monitor them. If you have any concerns or queries about this, please don't hesitate to contact us.