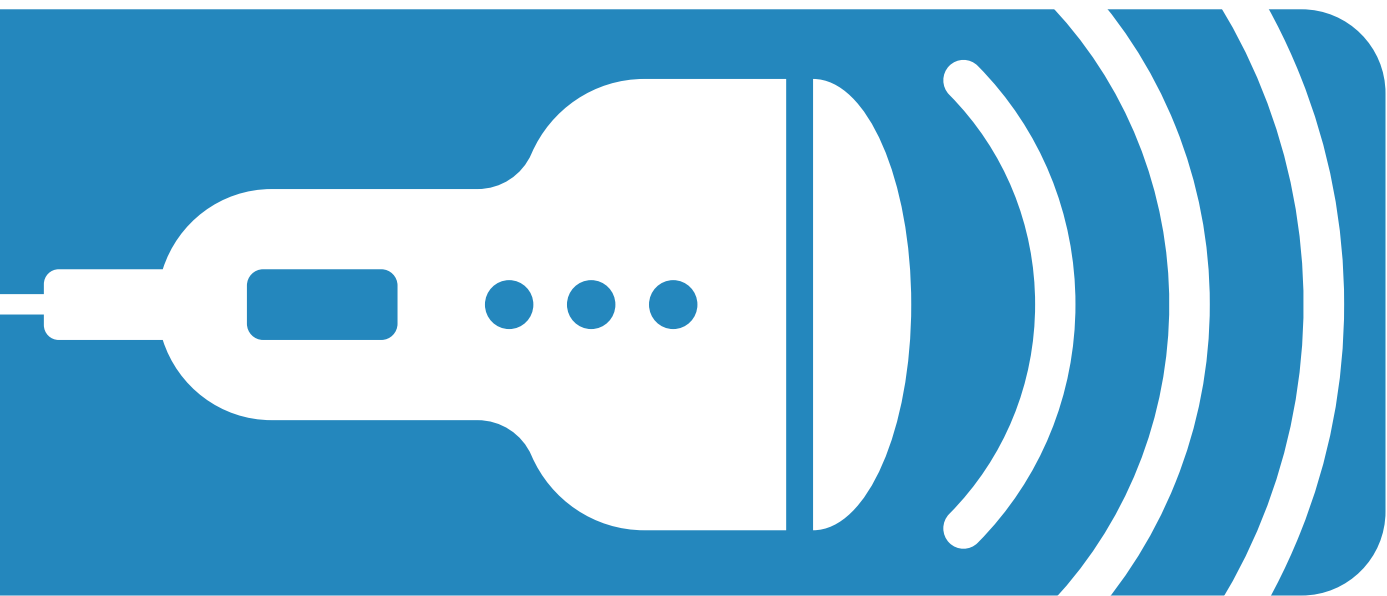


Top 5 Uses for Ultrasound in Veterinary Practice



A guide for providing a higher standard of care with ultrasound supported diagnoses.

1

Supporting Lab Results

Once lab work comes back showing abnormal values, specifically when looking at the liver, kidneys, pancreas, and adrenal glands, you can use ultrasound to quickly rule out or confirm several different issues, as well as guide additional diagnostic evaluation. Unlike radiographs, ultrasound provides a much more detailed view of abdominal soft tissue structures and will more clearly show abnormalities.

EXPERT TIP

Using a real-time, sonographer assisted ultrasound platform that offers streaming video will allow you to get more information in less time with its ability to capture surrounding structures in addition to the area of interest.

Ultrasound is commonly used to confirm/rule out the following:

- Diffuse hepatopathies/focal hepatic changes
- Gallbladder disease
- Abdominal masses/neoplasia
- Pancreatitis
- Kidneys – architecture, nephrolithiasis, pyelonephritis
- Abnormalities of the urinary bladder including wall irregularities, masses and uroliths
- Prostatic changes
- Adrenal disease
- Causes of effusion/facilitation of abdominocentesis



2

Determining The Cause of Vomiting in Cats

When a feline presents with GI signs including vomiting and/or diarrhea, you can use ultrasound to support blood-work and/or radiograph findings or as a first-step diagnostic procedure to guide next steps. Ultrasound offers more detail for GI irregularities than radiographs alone and is a great way to quickly identify or rule out several common causes of feline vomiting.*

EXPERT TIP

Using a linear transducer allows for greater diagnostic precision, enabling the sonographer to see details such as the individual layers of the small bowel. This additional detail can provide important information that may have been missed with less accurate diagnostic techniques.

Ultrasound is commonly used to confirm/rule out the following:

- Chronic enteropathies, including IBD
- Neoplasia
- Pancreatitis
- Abdominal lymphadenopathy

*Cytology or histopathology is generally needed for definitive diagnosis of GI changes, but ultrasound is helpful to direct the diagnostic plan. Fine needle aspiration of GI lesions may be possible and can be facilitated by ultrasound guidance.



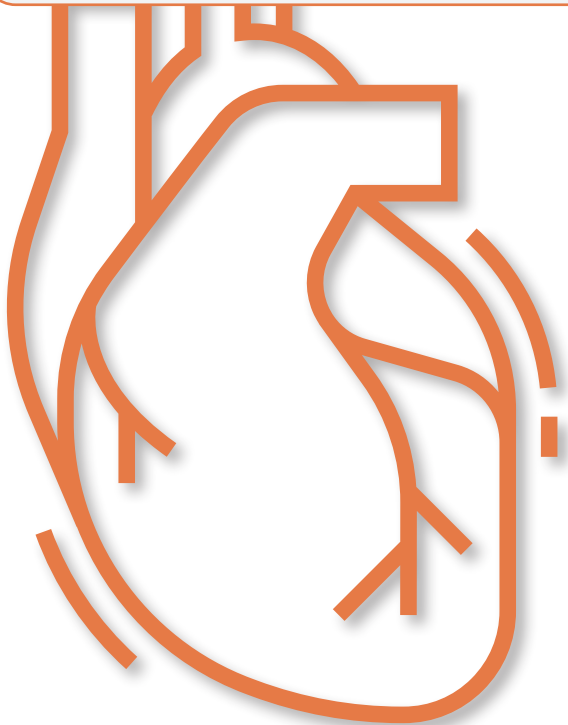
3

Pre-Dental Cardiac Assessment

Blood work is a critical component for safe sedation, but it doesn't always provide a complete picture. Performing an echocardiogram prior to dental procedures can help you make a better recommendation by giving you more information, particularly in senior patients and those with known heart conditions.

EXPERT TIP

Save time by submitting your lab work and echocardiogram results at the same time to the same specialists for expert interpretation.



Should always be considered for the following patients:

7+
YEARS

Seniors



Known Heart
Condition



4

Performing System-Focused Scans

When symptoms and your initial exam tell you where to look, ultrasound can help you quickly and precisely evaluate a specific system. Unlike full abdominal ultrasounds which can take 30- 45 mins, system specific scans typically take around 15 minutes.



EXPERT TIP

When you need answers fast, consider using a real-time, sonographer assisted ultrasound platform, so you can use your time efficiently to take advantage of the insights ultrasound can provide.

Common System-Focused Exams:

- Urinary tract – cystitis, urothelial neoplasia, urolithiasis, pyelonephritis
- Hepatobiliary – diffuse hepatopathy, focal hepatic lesions, neoplasia, gallbladder disease, bile duct obstruction
- Spleen – splenic masses, diffuse parenchymal disease, torsion
- Adrenal glands – adrenal tumors, adrenomegaly associated with hyperadrenocorticism
- Thyroid/parathyroid glands – nodules or tumors



5

Evaluating Heart Murmurs

When evaluating a patient with a heart murmur, you can leverage ultrasound to gain a deeper understanding of the murmur compared to a stethoscope evaluation alone, and use that additional knowledge to support the best possible plan of care. Additionally, in-clinic echocardiograms offer a much more affordable diagnostic option for your clients than a specialty visit to a cardiologist, while encouraging additional revenue for you.

EXPERT TIP

Use a phased array transducer and continuous wave Doppler to get the best possible cardiac imaging and more precise velocity measurements.

Diagnostic insights provided by echocardiograms:

- Exact location/source of murmur
- Cardiac structure and size
- Real-time view of heart function and valve performance
- Velocity of blood flow



Efficiency. Expertise. Education.

There are many ultrasound machines to choose from, and since most have similar features and function, it can be challenging to choose the right one for your practice. Here are 3 things to look for:



Efficiency: Ultrasound should improve your efficiency by helping you make faster and more accurate diagnoses. If the equipment is too cumbersome, or you and your staff do not have the required training, it will only slow you down. Consider using a platform with remote sonographer video access, to help guide your ultrasounds so you can obtain high-quality images faster.



Expertise: Most veterinary professionals recognize the benefits of having ultrasound at their disposal, yet have limited experience performing and reading them. Thus, many veterinary practices end up investing equipment that is rarely used. Consider going with a company who partners with you by connecting you with team of specialists ready to evaluate your findings within hours.



Education: Your ultrasound equipment provides no value if you don't know how to use it. Look for an ultrasound machine that comes with more than a user manual - look for one that comes with on-going training and educational opportunities, so you can learn how to get the most out of your machine, not only clinically, but financially as well.

EXPERT TIP

To learn more about how veterinary medicine's first telemedicine-enabled real-time sonographer assisted veterinary ultrasound can help you raise both the standard of care and the bottom line in your practice, visit the Oncura Partners website: www.oncurapartners.com/

