



Pre-Visit Checklist - General

Booking A Visit

- Complete the booking form on www.vetartis.co.uk. If an urgent visit is required, then phone/text 07421320662 AND complete the booking form.
- Receive an acknowledgement email with suggested booked time for the visit.
- Confirm the date and time with your team and client – this needs to be a time that the case vet is available as well as the client/pet.
- Receive an email confirmation of date and time along with requirements for the booking – consent form, ‘Owner Information Leaflet’ and any pre-procedure requirements.

Pre-admission

- Send the VetArtis consent form and ‘Owner Information Leaflet’ to the client ahead of the planned visit (RCVS guidance).
- Send the patient history to VetArtis ahead of the planned visit.
- Ensure the client knows to starve the pet (most examinations and all sedations/GA; 12 hours is needed for most abdominal ultrasound examinations).
- Organise to have pets dropped off at least an hour before the scheduled visit.
- If percutaneous core biopsies are planned, then a coagulation profile (PT and APTT) and platelet count need to be performed and the results received in advance of the visit. Lungworm treatment in endemic areas is also recommended as coagulation parameters can be normal.

On The Day

- Use the VetArtis consent form to obtain informed consent from the client for the following; this consent form will need to be retained by VetArtis. You may also wish to use the practice’s own consent form to collect consent for related factors such as payment.
 - Fur clipping – warn the owner it will be extensive.
 - Sedation/GA may be required.
 - Pre-planned sampling such as FNA or percutaneous core biopsies (Tru-Cut).
- Have ready and available for the scheduled visit:
 - A quiet room that can be darkened.
 - A sturdy table that large enough to hold the animal in lateral recumbency and a stool.



- An assistant to hold the animal – this needs to be an RVN if sedation or anaesthesia is needed, for monitoring purposes.
- If the patient allows, clip the appropriate area to be scanned, rub some surgical spirit on cotton wool or swab over the skin several times and allow to dry (30 seconds) then apply a small amount of ultrasound gel. This greatly improves the image quality and allows for assessment of the level of sedation that might be required for the examination.



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- Clip from the xiphoid process (blue arrow), follow the costal arch (red arrows), extend along the sub-lumbar muscles to the pelvis. This needs to be repeated on both sides of the abdomen.
- If required, place IV catheter and plan sedation with case vet. The case vet and partner practice are responsible for use of sedation or anaesthesia if required; I can suggest appropriate drugs that can be used.
- If a change of plan is required at the time of the scan (e.g. deeper sedation, scanning another part of the body, collection of samples) then this will be reported to the case vet to decide the course of action (such as getting informed consent from the owner to continue, or to rebook for another time).
- At the end of the examination, I will discuss findings with the case vet and assist in any planning for ongoing investigations and/or treatment.
- The practice will be provided with an invoice by email (to the email address provided on the booking) at the end of the visit to allow accurate billing of the client.



After The Visit

- Monitoring the animal (in addition to monitoring recovery from sedation/GA):
 - FNAs – these will be checked at the end of the scan and no further monitoring should be necessary unless the partner practice/vet is informed at the time.
 - Core biopsies – these will be checked by VetArtis about 15 minutes after the procedure by quick scan. Ideally, serial scans should be repeated over the subsequent 3-4 hours if a suitable ultrasound machine is available; otherwise, clinical monitoring by mucous membrane colour and capillary refill time, pulse quality and rate, and patient responsiveness should be adequate.
- Report – the detailed report will be sent to the email address provided on the booking form within 48 hours of the visit and usually much quicker than this.

Additional cases. If a visit has been scheduled and extra cases need scanned at the same visit, please let VetArtis know in advance. It is very likely it can be accommodated if known about, allowing for the diary to be managed.