VetArtis

Pre-Visit Checklist - Echocardiology

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

☐ Ideally send the VetArtis consent form and 'Owner Information Leaflet' to the client ahead of the planned visit (RCVS guidance requires this).

☐ Ensure the client knows to starve the pet – although most echos can be performed without sedation, sometimes it is needed so if the pet has been fed then another visit may be necessary.

☐ Organise to have pets dropped off at least an hour before the scheduled visit.

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.
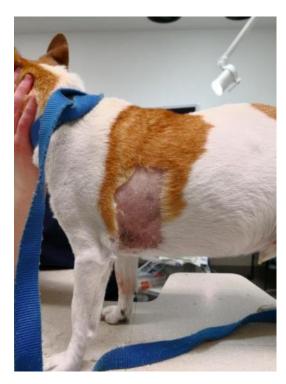 o Fur clipping – warn the owner it will be extensive.
  o Sedation may be required.

☐ Have ready and available for the scheduled visit:
  o A **quiet room that can be darkened**. A **cool room** will help reduce dogs panting which affects the quality of the images obtained – set the air con to 16°C.
  o A sturdy table that large enough to hold the heart table - minimum of 120x60cm and ideally is height adjustable.
  o A height-adjustable stool.
  o An assistant to hold the animal – this needs to be an RVN if sedation or anaesthesia is needed, for monitoring purposes. For conscious echos, often two people make the pet calmer and easier to scan.

☐ **Take the blood pressure** while the patient is calm – ideally, I need systolic or mean blood pressure by Doppler technique. This is essential for cat echos.

☐ 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.

• Palpate for the apex beat (i.e. the heart beating that you can feel on the chest wall).

• Behind each foreleg, draw the foreleg forward to clip the cranial extent and extend to half way up the chest

• The area needs to extend ventrally under the chest to meet the clip patch on the other side – in this picture the clip does not extend far enough ventrally.

• BOTH sides need to be clipped like this.

☐ 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 obvious findings with the case vet.

☐ 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

□ 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 an extra case arises, please let VetArtis know in advance. It is very likely it can be accommodated if known about, allowing for the diary to be managed.