



What to Expect: Radiation Oncology

EVALUATION APPOINTMENT INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Radiation Oncology Service is staffed by a board certified radiation oncologist, veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants. During your visit you will meet the radiation oncologist, but a team of individuals works behind the scenes to provide your pet with the best care during your visit to the Veterinary Medical Center.

The initial consultation in the examination room usually lasts 1 to 1.5 hours. This will provide sufficient time to review your pet's medical history, perform a thorough physical examination of your pet and discuss the case with other specialists if needed.

The radiation oncology evaluation usually consists of several parts and typically takes most of the day to complete:

- Consultation with a radiation oncology clinician** regarding your pet's specific type of cancer, possibly additional recommended staging tests, and potential radiation (and other) treatment options and prognosis.
- Laboratory testing and diagnostic imaging** such as blood work, fine needle aspirates, x-ray, and ultrasound, if not yet performed by your veterinarian.
- Consultation with other services** such as surgery, neurology, dermatology, etc. if appropriate.
- Additional tests that may be performed include** a radiation planning CT scan. Patients not needing a CT scan for radiation therapy are usually able to start treatment the same day.

Not all diagnostic tests or treatments may be available the day of your pet's appointment.

If it is determined that your pet requires surgery, a future consultation appointment with the surgery service will be scheduled. Surgery will not be performed on the day of your Radiation Oncology appointment.

COMMUNICATIONS

We will need to know the optimal way to contact you during the time your pet is in the teaching hospital and for follow-up recommendations. In order to optimize communication pathways, outgoing call numbers are typically blocked, so you will need to be able to be reached at a phone that accepts blocked calls.

All information from your pet's visit with the Radiation Oncology Service at UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center is shared with your primary veterinarian. It is your responsibility to ensure that we have the correct information regarding your pet's primary and referring veterinarians.

FEES

Your veterinarian may be able to provide a rough cost estimate for the visit based on the general nature of your pet's problems. A more specific estimate of the cost of evaluation will be given to you during your first visit. Adjustments to this estimate will be given to you if changes develop or are anticipated during your pet's evaluation or treatment.

FINANCIAL POLICY

The financial policy of the hospital requires full payment for the entire bill when your pet is discharged from the hospital. If your pet stays overnight or undergoes a multi-treatment radiation protocol, you will be required to submit half of the total expected cost as a deposit. We accept major credit cards, Care Credit, cash or check as forms of payments.

AGGRESSIVE ANIMALS

Aggressive animals needing medical or surgical care may be seen on a case-by-case basis and only with approval of the clinician in charge. Because appointments with aggressive animals must be coordinated with our Behavior Service, consultation with the service chief and your veterinarian is required. An additional professional fee will be applied for animals requiring assistance from the Behavior Service.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Missed appointments are inconvenient to our current and future patients. Please call us (865-974-8387) at least 24 hours in advance if you are unable to make your scheduled appointment. **UTCVM is located in the Eastern Time Zone.**

RADIATION ONCOLOGY PRE-APPOINTMENT CHECKLIST

- Please have your primary veterinarian forward vaccination history to UTCVM prior to your appointment. Vaccinations must be up to date prior to the appointment unless there is a specific medical reason that your pet cannot be vaccinated.
- Please **DO NOT** feed your pet after midnight the night before the appointment unless otherwise indicated by your veterinarian (e.g., pets with low blood sugar). Please administer any prescribed medications as previously directed. Water can be given up to the time of appointment.
- If your pet is diabetic, feed and administer insulin as usual.
- Give the morning medication as usual.
- Bring all medications that your pet is currently taking to the appointment. These should be in their original prescription containers.
- Please bring copies of all pertinent medical records, lab test results, to the medical initial appointment records and radiographs. Digital images may be emailed to utvetref@utk.edu Advanced imaging such as CT, MRI and ultrasound, need to be brought on a CD in DICOM format.**
- If you have any pet insurance you want us to file, please bring the forms with you.

****Please note that all pets should be brought to the Veterinary Medical Center on a leash or in a pet carrier.****

Thank you for choosing UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center for your pet's care. We look forward to meeting you!