

# What to Expect: Large Animal MRI

## APPOINTMENT INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

### How to Prepare For MRI

Diagnostic imaging requires that the patient remains still for a period of time. For this reason, it is necessary that the patient undergoes general anesthesia for the MRI scan. To prepare for this, we ask that your animal be brought to the UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center the day before the scheduled procedure. Depending on your animal's medical condition, anesthesia and MRI imaging may involve some risks. This will be discussed with you in detail during the admission process.



During the admission process, we will be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the MRI procedure. We will also ask that you sign a consent form for the procedure, including the administration of sedation and anesthesia. Your animal will also stay overnight for observation after the procedure. Please make sure that our staff knows how to contact you in the event of a question or scheduling change.

### The MRI Examination Process

1. The patient will undergo a physical examination in preparation for anesthesia. The shoes will be removed and radiographs of the feet will be obtained the day before the MRI procedure, to ensure that no metal is left behind (in addition to being a safety hazard in the magnet, metal creates artifacts that can compromise image quality to the point of making the MRI study non-diagnostic).
2. An intravenous catheter will be placed in a jugular vein for the administration of anesthetic agents (and contrast media, if required).
3. The patient will be endotracheally intubated and will receive a combination of inhalational and injectable anesthetic for maintenance of anesthesia during the scan.
4. The patient will be moved to the imaging suite positioned on a dedicated MRI-compatible table, and scanned while under general anesthesia.
5. After the MRI scan is completed, the patient will be brought to a stall to recover from anesthesia. After recovery, the patient will be placed in a bedded stall for overnight observation.
6. We will contact you once the patient has recovered and is back in a stall.
7. The patient will be released to go home after being cleared by the senior clinician in charge of the case.
8. The MRI examination will be interpreted by a board-certified veterinary radiologist. The written report will be sent to your referring veterinarian the next business day.

### After the Exam

You will need to schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to discuss the results of the MRI examination.