

What to Expect: Large Animal CT Scan

APPOINTMENT INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

How to Prepare For CT

CT 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 CT 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 CT imaging may involve some risks. This will be discussed with you in detail during the admission process.

The CT is performed as a request by your veterinarian. Therefore, UTCVM does not repeat exams, or other diagnostic procedures, unless an official second opinion is requested by the primary veterinarian or the owner.

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



The CT Examination Process

1. The patient will undergo a physical examination in preparation for anesthesia. Blood will be drawn and submitted for routine blood work to ensure that your animal is healthy. In the case of equines, if the feet are imaged, the shoes will be removed (metal creates streak artifacts that can severely compromise image quality).
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 CT table, and scanned while under general anesthesia.
5. After the CT 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 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. This may be the same day or in some cases the next day.
8. The CT examination will be interpreted by a board-certified veterinary radiologist. The written report will be sent to your referring veterinarian within 2-3 business days.

After the Exam

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