



What is MRI?

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a painless way to look inside the body without x-rays. It uses a powerful magnet, radio waves and a computer to produce remarkably detailed images of internal tissues and organs. Because MRI can show problems that cannot be seen with other diagnostic imaging techniques, it has rapidly become the most powerful diagnostic imaging modality in human medicine. Up to now, high costs have limited its use in veterinary medicine.

Are there any risks with MRI studies?

MRI in itself is a very safe procedure. The magnetic field and the radio waves have no known harmful effects. Because patients need to be absolutely still during an MRI study, however, general anesthesia is required for animals. A specialist veterinary anesthesiologist will perform general anesthesia and closely monitor the patient throughout the scan.

MRI, and metallic objects.

Ferro-magnetic metals can become dangerous flying objects in the strong magnetic field created by the MRI magnet. They may hurt people or the patient, damage the equipment or force us to inactivate the magnet (each occurrence costs \$10,000). For security reasons, no one but the MRI technologist and anesthesiologist are allowed in the MRI room.

Pets occasionally have internal metallic objects (bone plates, pins and wires used to repair fractures) or BB shots at various locations. These are rarely dangerous for the patient but they can cause large magnetic artifacts that make MRI studies useless. Please tell us if your pet has any metal in their body that you are aware of. Microchips are fine unless they are extremely close to the area being scanned.

When will I get the results of the MRI?

Hundreds of images and a large amount of information are obtained during one MRI exam. Once the MRI exam is completed, a specialty veterinary radiologist reviews the images. All images are reviewed in detail and the radiologist's report is typed and emailed or faxed to your referring veterinarian within 24 hours. Please contact your referring veterinarian for the MRI results. We also send your veterinarian a link to the images of the MRI study. If you like, we can give you a link to view the images as well.