

Forest Veterinary Centre Out Patient MRI Service



FOREST
Veterinary Centre

www.forestvets.com

From November 2013 we will be offering an out patient MRI service to our referring vets in partnership with a team of Diploma holding radiologists from VetCT Consultants in Telemedicine.

Over view of the service

- Referring vet identifies a potential patient for MRI scanning and completes the request form, which is faxed to 01992 573900 (the request forms are available from our office and website www.forestvets.com)
- Forest Veterinary Centre contacts the client directly to arrange appropriate consultation and hospitalisation appointment.
- Patient is taken to appointment by the owner.
- Vet from Forest Veterinary Centre discusses with owners as required, reviews the clinical history and performs a pre anaesthetic assessment.
- Diploma holding radiologist from VetCT are on hand if required to confirm that MRI is appropriate and provide protocols if needed.
- Forest Veterinary Centre vet takes responsibility for anaesthesia /MRI and recovery.
- Patient is discharged when clinically stable.
- Images are sent to reporting VetCT radiologist by Forest Veterinary Centre vet on the day of scanning. Images sent by 5pm will receive a next working day report.
- Reports are provided to Forest Veterinary Centre vet and forwarded to referring vet within 24 hours (working day defined as Monday-Friday 8.30am-5.30pm).

Main Centre & Hospital: 78 Hemnall Street, Epping Essex CM16 4LQ

Woodford Bridge: 32 Waltham Road, Woodford Bridge, Essex IG8 8EB

Harlow: Eastwick Lodge, Harlow, Essex, CM20 2QT

Forest Veterinary Centre Ltd. Registered Office: Kemp House, 152-160 City Road, London EC1V 2DW. Company Reg. No: 8455672

Tel: 01992 575790

Tel: 0208 505 4078

Tel: 01279 437433



- Forest Veterinary Centre or referring vet (which ever is preferred) explains results to the owner and can contact reporting VetCT radiologist for additional support and advice as required.
- If the patient is referred to another practice then both the images and the report can be promptly forwarded as required.

Patient selection

Patients will be scanned on an outpatient basis and therefore must be clinically stable and suitable for transport to and from Forest Veterinary Centre and anaesthesia and recovery at Forest Veterinary Centre within 1-2 days. Clinically unstable patients should not be considered for imaging unless ambulance transportation, constant veterinary supervision and access to hospital facilities can be provided.

MRI can be extremely helpful in the diagnosis and evaluation of certain clinical conditions. A list of suggested clinical indications can be provided. In addition, a Diploma-holding Specialist Radiologist can help you choose the correct modality and make sure that MRI is appropriate.

There are some situations where outpatient MRI is not appropriate. In particular, please complete the safety section of the request form carefully.

NB If you are uncertain of which body area requires imaging and require a specialist to localize the condition (e.g. neurolocalisation), then it is best to consider full referral of the case.

Contrast media

Contrast media are often used in MRI scanning. Again, these are not suitable for all patients and the owner must be made aware of the associated risks.

Please complete the safety section of the request form and read the advice carefully.

Patient preparation

Patients to be starved for 12 hours prior to admission if 6+ months or older.

Patients to be starved for 6 hours prior to admission if between 3 months and 6 months old

Patients can have access to water up to 2 hours before admission.

All MRI will need a general anaesthetic.

I/V access will be required for all patients.

Responsibility for the patient

The patient remains under the care of the primary referring vet, but will temporarily become the responsibility of the Forest Veterinary Centre while performing anaesthesia/sedation at the scanning site during preparation, the imaging procedure and recovery.

A client consent form will be completed for each case at Forest veterinary Centre as normal.

Expectations

Each (MRI) examination will be followed up with a full report by the next working day after that scanning appointment. The report is written by a Diploma holding Specialist Radiologist

from VetCT Consultants in Telemedicine (www.vetctspecialists.com). Please contact VetCT for a sample report. The report will include pertinent images and differential diagnoses. In many cases (MRI) can give clear and very full answers as to the pathology present, but it should be noted (and the client should be warned) that imaging may not be definitive or may even be normal. Any further intervention after imaging remains the responsibility of the primary referring vet.

Note: VetCT accept no legal/professional responsibility for the care of the patient, as their reporting service does not include a veterinary professional on site.

Owner discussion (notes for the referring vet practice)

Important points to consider

- MRI scanning is widely used in veterinary patients and is generally very safe. It does however utilize a large magnetic field and it is very important to be clear about whether the patient has any metallic implants or a pacemaker. Access to the patient is also limited during the scan, but they will be monitored remotely by the vet and team. Anaesthesia is required for all MRI scans. Please refer to the patient preparation details. Scanning takes between 30-90 minutes.
- Contrast media may be used for MRI. These carry a low risk of adverse reaction (such as anaphylaxis) and are contra-indicated in patients with renal disease.
- IV access will be required. The patient will therefore be clipped accordingly.
- Issues associated with patient transport and recovery.
- Expectations from the MRI examination (see above).
- Costs (see MRI guide of costs form).