



## **Pet Owner Information and Instructions**

### **What is MRI?**

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging which is an advance imaging modality that has been safely used in humans for the last 40 years and in veterinary medicine for nearly 30 years. It is non-painful and non-invasive.

### **How does an MRI work?**

Unlike X-rays and CT, MRI does not use ionizing radiation. Instead, it uses magnetic fields and pulses of radio waves to temporarily and harmlessly energize molecules in your pet's body. As they relax, these energized molecules give off a signal that's made into an image. MRI allows us to image patients in all three dimensions in very thin slices, giving us a remarkable representation of your pets anatomy and any pathology that is present.

### **Why has an MRI been recommended for my pet?**

MRI is a powerful imaging modality and is an excellent for the imaging of soft tissue structures. We can image areas such as the sinus cavities, skull, brain, spinal cord, intervertebral disks, abdominal organs, lungs, muscles, nerves, tendons, ligaments, and joints with much more detail than the average X-ray. The results of the MRI will help your veterinarian make a definitive diagnosis and offer you the best options for treating your pet.

### **How do I schedule an MRI?**

Your veterinarian must contact us to arrange a referral. Once a referral has been arranged, you may then schedule an appointment directly with us. Appointments are scheduled in the morning Monday through Friday. If your pet is to have a MRI, we will have you leave him or her with us for the day. We prefer to have patients picked up by 4:30 p.m., but if it is more convenient for you to leave your pet after hours or overnight, arrangements can be made to board them for an additional fee. If needed, you may wait during the imaging study. Please notify the receptionist when scheduling the appointment if you are planning to wait.

### **How should I prepare my pet for the MRI?**

Pets having an MRI must be anesthetized so that they remain still for the exam. In preparation for general anesthesia, they should not eat after 10 p.m. the night before the exam. It is all right for them to have water available until two hours prior to their scheduled appointment time. Ask your veterinarian for instructions if your pet is on any medications.

### **What should I bring to the appointment?**

We will ask your family veterinarian to fax us a copy of the medical record so that you do not need to be responsible for that. However, if your family veterinarian has any X-rays that they are unable to mail to us in time for the appointment, we ask that you please bring these with you.



### **What should I expect during the MRI?**

Your pet will be anesthetized for an hour to hour and a half for the imaging study. Before any anesthesia is given, we will make sure that your pet is healthy enough to undergo anesthesia. We will place an intravenous catheter and your pet will get fluids throughout the procedure. All vital signs will be carefully monitored during and following anesthesia.

### **What happens to my pet after the MRI?**

After the MRI, your pet may be disoriented and off-balance for about half an hour. We will watch your pet closely until it has recovered. Once your pet is standing and able to move around safely, we will send it home with you. Your pet may urinate a large amount after it gets home because of the fluids given during the anesthesia. Once home, it will be important to keep your pet away from stairs and furniture until it has fully recovered so that your pet does not hurt itself. Your pet should be back to normal the morning following the scan.

### **How do we proceed after the MRI?**

After the MRI, the images will be read by a highly-qualified board-certified veterinary radiologist. Results of the MRI will be sent to your family veterinarian's office within 48 hours following the appointment.

### **Where are you located?**

You can find directions to all our locations at [www.bushvetimaging.com/contact-us](http://www.bushvetimaging.com/contact-us).

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#### **Woodstock, GA**

7800 Highway 92 • Woodstock, GA 30189

P 678.400.0042 | F 678.621.2770

8:30am to 5:00pm Monday – Friday

Saturday with advanced arrangement

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[www.bushvetimaging.com](http://www.bushvetimaging.com)