

Instructions for completing the out-patient CT request form

Please submit the forms (4 pages) via fax 01626 867893
or scan & e-mail to surgery@ridgereferalls.co.uk

Section 1 - Referring Vet Information

- Always include your name, the practice name, contact telephone number & e-mail address. **Please note the email address provided will be where the final Vet CT report will be forwarded to.** (We will not discuss any CT results with your client, all results will go directly to yourselves).
- In the event that we have questions about the condition of the patient or need to discuss the scan request, it is important that we are able to contact you or a colleague familiar with the case on the day of the scan.

Section 2 - Patient Information

- Please provide the name and contact information for the pet owner.
- Include your presumptive diagnosis (if you have one) or clinical signs present for the current problem(s).
- Please provide as much information as you can about the patient and include findings of any investigations or surgery that has already been carried out.
- Advise us (to your knowledge) if the patient has any metal implants present as these can significantly distort the CT images during the scan.
- Inform us of any current medications that the patient is taking.
- Please provide any other information that you feel may be relevant.
- If there is a lot of relevant clinical history you may wish to send the full clinical notes of the patient along with the referral form.

Section 3 - Anaesthetic risk classification (ARC)

- Although all patients will receive a veterinary examination prior to their scan, it is important for us to know what to expect before they arrive.
- Performing a CT scan requires general anaesthesia or heavy sedation. Although rare, there are inherent risks and potential complications associated with anaesthesia/sedation and the CT procedure, particularly in patients that require the administration of contrast media (most scans with the exception of orthopaedic scans may require contrast).
- Please assign an 'ARC' score to your patient using the guide attached on page 3.
- If the patient has an ARC classification of 4 or 5, referral to a multidisciplinary referral centre with onsite anaesthesia and medicine specialists may be more appropriate. Please call us if you are unsure which classification your patient falls in to.

Section 4 - CT scan requirements

- Please choose the area(s) where you would like the CT scan(s) to be performed. We will carry out the scan exactly as you request without question, so please ensure that you are very clear about the area(s) that you would like to be scanned. If you need advice about which scan would be most appropriate for your patients condition/clinical symptoms please call us to discuss, if necessary we can contact the radiologists at Vet CT specialists on your behalf to be sure that all appropriate scans are carried out.
- With Neuro cases, occasionally MRI imaging will be superior to CT, call us to discuss these cases initially and again we can contact Vet CT specialists for further advice on your behalf if necessary to ensure the most appropriate scan is carried out.
- Normally scan reports are received by yourselves within 1-3 days of the scan being carried out, if you require a more urgent report please make us aware of this.

Section 5 - Blood tests required

- Please select which diagnostic tests your patient requires depending upon their age, ARC score and the type of scan being carried out.
- Blood tests should be carried out no earlier than 2 weeks prior to the scan appointment, please ensure that the results of the diagnostic tests are forwarded to us when available.