

Step-by-step - things to remember

Referral form and bloodwork must be completed and faxed from your regular clinic.

Do not feed your pet after midnight the Friday night prior to the MRI. If your pet is a diabetic, contact us for special instructions.

Arrive at Animal Emergency Center before 7:00 a.m. the morning of the MRI.

Leave a contact number so you can be contacted when your pet has recovered from anesthesia or in case of an emergency.

The MRI films will be sent next day air via FedEx. Barring unforeseen circumstances, Dr. Partington will have the films on Monday morning, evaluate the films and contact your referring veterinarian by Tuesday.

Your referring veterinarian will contact you with the results.

If you need directions to Animal Emergency Center go to the contact page at our website.

www.animalemergencycentermemphis.com

Click on the map on the contact page. You can then enter your starting address and get a map with step-by-step directions to the clinic.

We accept Visa, MasterCard, AmericanExpress, Discover, Checks with Telecheck approval, or Cash. We also accept CareCredit with prior approval. **You can apply for CareCredit at www.carecredit.com or by calling 1-800-365-8295.**

A mobile MRI unit arrives at Animal Emergency Center on the fourth Saturday of each month unless this schedule is disrupted by a holiday. If your pet is scheduled for an MRI, please, arrive at the clinic for check-in between 6:00 - 7:00 a.m., unless alternative arrangements have been made.

You will meet with Dr. Steven Ambrose, the veterinarian who will be managing your pet's anesthesia.



Dr. Steven Ambrose is a 1998 graduate of Louisiana State University. He has 7 years of general practice experience and 3 years emergency experience. He has overseen all of the MRI procedures since

we started having the unit at Animal Emergency Center in October 2001. After meeting with



Dr. Ambrose,

your pet will then stay with us until s/he is fully recovered from anesthesia. You will be called at the contact number you provided to let you know what time your pet will be ready for discharge.

Animal Emergency Center MRI Information



By Referral Only

Call 901-323-4564

Provider of after-hours emergency care for 30 years in the same location.

**3767 Summer Ave.
Memphis, TN 38122**

Scheduling Procedures

- ❖ Have your referring veterinary clinic call 901-323-4564 during office hours (8 a.m. - 3:00 p.m) to schedule an appointment for your pet.
- ❖ A referral form will be faxed to your regular clinic for completion. A credit card number and expiration date are requested on the referral form; therefore, please provide this information to your veterinarian.
- ❖ Your regular veterinarian must complete a pre-anesthetic evaluation before an MRI can be scheduled for your pet. This includes an exam, lab/bloodwork and a possible chest x-ray. The results of these tests should be faxed along with your referral form to 901-323-0946.
- ❖ Upon completion of the procedure:
 - > We will FedEx the films to Dr. Beth Partington for interpretation.
 - > She will fax a copy of her report to your referring veterinarian.
 - > The original report and the films will be mailed to the office of your referring veterinarian.
 - > Your referring veterinarian will contact you with the results of your pet's MRI.
- ❖ The total charge for an MRI is \$935.00 for the first scan. If additional scans are needed, those will be quoted as needed.
- ❖ If a CSF is ordered, a CSF is \$190.00

CSF is an analysis of the fluid in the central canal of the spinal cord. Examination of the CSF for the presence of abnormal or excessive numbers of cells, protein content, and other organisms is an important source of information about the nervous system.

"I'm scheduled for an MRI tomorrow"

is a common phrase in households today. Now MRI is available for the family pet. The indications for this state-of-the-art diagnostic modality are many, and the list below is rapidly expanding.

In small animal medicine, MRIs are used to diagnose:

Intracranial disease: MRI is the preferred imaging modality for the brain and pituitary. It gives superior soft tissue resolution, allowing visualization of gray and white matter, the ventricles, and the meninges. It may be used to diagnose inflammatory disease such as encephalitis or meningitis caused by infectious agents (ie. viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi). MRI is also used to evaluate for edema (swelling) and vascular disease, such as an infarct or stroke. An MRI of the brain may be performed in an animal with seizures, blindness, circling, head tilt, behavioral changes, loss of balance, disorders of the cranial nerves (such as a lip droop or inability to blink), mental dullness, and other manifestations of central neurological disease.



Nasal disease: Oftentimes a definitive diagnosis can be obtained with radiograph, rhinoscopy, and biopsy. MRI can be utilized to assess the extent of the disease process; the information is vital in providing an accurate prognosis for clients wishing to pursue definitive therapy. It has been well documented that radiographs significantly underestimate the extent of nasal disease.

Orbits: MRI is useful in evaluating the optic nerves and tissue behind the eyeballs and is most commonly performed for protrusion of an eye called exophthalmos or certain cases of blindness.

Bullae: The tympanic bullae are the bony portions of the ears. Inflammation, infection, and tumors of the inner or middle portions can cause disturbances in balance and a head tilt.

Spine: MRI is commonly used to evaluate the vertebrae, intervertebral discs, spinal canal, spinal cord, and nerve roots. While an extruded disc is the most common finding, MRI can be used when infection or tumors are suspected. It is performed in patients with pain, neurological deficits, weakness, and muscle atrophy attributed to a specific spinal cord segment.

Lameness without a bone or joint problem (a nerve root signature) can be attributed to a disc or tumor of the nerve root or a compressing of one side of the spinal cord. MRI is particularly useful in these cases, as they evaluate not only the space around the spinal cord but also the nerve roots and other surrounding structures.

Extremity: MRI of the shoulder or knee may be performed to evaluate tendons, ligaments, and cartilage. It can also be used to evaluate the extent of a tumor or infection prior to surgery.

