



What to expect when your pet gets an MRI

After the neurologist has localized your pet's particular neurologic problem on examination, further testing is needed in an attempt to diagnose your pet's individual condition. If an MRI is necessary, an estimate and consent form will be created for you to approve and sign. We require the low end of the estimate be left as a deposit towards your final bill.

We will also ask for a phone number where we can best reach you. Please make yourself available during your pet's MRI as the neurologist may need to speak with you. For instance, the neurologist might need to discuss further diagnostics while your pet is under anesthesia. A common diagnostic that is performed post MRI is a spinal tap, more information on what to expect if your pet has a spinal tap can be found on the back of this sheet.

Your pet will need to remain completely still for the MRI and therefore will be under anesthesia. General bloodwork is required to ensure it is safe to put your pet under anesthesia. Your pet will be closely monitored throughout the MRI scan to evaluate heart rate, blood pressure, respiration, oxygen and CO2 levels. Your pet will also receive IV fluids for the duration of the scan.

The MRI is viewed real time by a BVNS board certified neurologist to ensure we obtain as much information on your pet's condition as possible. Thus, the duration of the scan varies based on this need and what part of your pet's body is being scanned.

Because the duration of the scan depends on a number of factors, the MRI can potentially take several hours. We will do our best to set up an accurate time for you to return later in the day to view and discuss the MRI findings and treatment plan. Please be aware that this time is an estimate based on the daily flow and MRI schedule. Thus, there is always a possibility that you may have to wait additional time than previously estimated. We will do our best to call you and update you if we need you to return at a later time than previously discussed.

We appreciate your patience in our efforts to provide you the most information about your pet's neurologic condition.

If you have any questions please contact BVNS at your convenience.





What to expect when your pet gets a Spinal Tap

A spinal tap is performed if it is suspected that your pet has inflammation of the brain or spinal cord. This inflammation can be from infectious or noninfectious causes. Often times an MRI is performed before the tap to first to eliminate structural abnormalities. A spinal tap may then be performed if we need additional information as to the cause of your pet's symptoms and the MRI shows it is safe to perform a spinal tap.

Your pet will be under general anesthesia for the spinal tap. A small area is clipped and sterilized at the base of the skull where the tap will be performed. Spinal fluid is then collected with a small needle and microscopically analyzed by our board certified veterinary neurologist. This analysis consists of a protein count and a cellular examination; further testing of this fluid may be warranted based on the results of our initial analysis. Testing of spinal fluid can be more sensitive than testing blood samples and your neurologist may want to use the fluid to test for common infectious diseases, such as protozoal, fungal, and viral diseases.

While people report significant side effects from spinal taps such as severe head aches, we do not recognize these signs in our pets. Most pets are eating soon after recovering from the spinal tap, which is a sign that they are not painful. Please contact us if you have any questions, if at any point your pet stops eating or if your pet shows any other signs of discomfort.



To learn more about neurologic diseases, treatments, medications and our practice, please visit www.bvns.net.