



807 Camp Horne Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
PHONE 412.348.2577  
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## **Contents of the Veterinary Referral Package**

- Introductory Letter from the Medical Director
- MRI/CT Referral Form
- Information on Required Testing for Patients Having an MRI/CT
- A Brochure and Information on **Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computed Tomography** to distribute to Clients
- Our Payment Policy
- Information for Us about You
- The Referral Process



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Pet owners place their trust in us to provide the best care for their pets. As clients demand higher levels of care for their pets, safer and more advanced technologies are being developed for use in the veterinary field. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and Computed Tomography (CT) will soon become the standard of care for many conditions in veterinary medicine.

**Who are we?** PetsDx is a group of energetic individuals committed to providing you, your clients, and their pets with state-of-the-art veterinary diagnostic imaging services. Our Pittsburgh facility is fully staffed with an experienced veterinarian, MRI/CT technologist and veterinary technicians. Board certified veterinary radiologists with advanced training in MRI/CT will review each study and provide detailed findings.

**Why use PetsDx?** At PetsDx we focus solely on imaging veterinary patients with MRI and CT. This specialized service allows us to provide the answers you need while you spend your time on your business. Because we are conveniently located just north of Pittsburgh off of Intrastate 279, we can image your patients and give you the information you need in a timely fashion.

PetsDx employees have extensive experience in veterinary medicine, magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography. At PetsDx, we have over 50 years of experience in MRI and CT collectively. You can rest assured that you are getting only the best when you refer to PetsDx.

**What to expect when using PetsDx.** We see cases on a referral basis only. In most cases, a patient can be scheduled for a MRI or CT within a day or two. Because we focus solely on MRI and CT, you retain the business generated by performing a detailed case work-up before your client and patient meet with us. On the day of the imaging study, clients may wait for their pet or drop their pet off and return in 3-4 hrs to pick them up. Clients will meet with the veterinarian to discuss the procedure and anesthetic risks when they bring their pet for the study. Every patient receives a complete physical exam and review of lab work in order to develop an appropriate anesthetic protocol. Anesthetic time for an imaging study usually ranges from 15-90 minutes. Once recovered from anesthesia, your patient will be discharged to their owner to return home or back to your facility.

We understand your time is very valuable, so we will communicate test results to you typically within 24 to 48 hours of the study so that you can inform your clients as rapidly as possible. In most cases, we can have a report faxed to your office within four hours of completing the study. For a small additional fee, a stat read can be performed and the results can be communicated to you within an hour. PetsDx does not provide results to clients. Case management is left to the referring veterinarian's discretion. We will be glad to provide **you** with any assistance in regards to additional diagnostic and/or treatment recommendations, if you wish.

We at PetsDx are very excited about the opportunity to work together with you. We believe we can offer you and your clients' access to advanced veterinary imaging and a consultation service at a reasonable cost. We would be happy to meet with you and give you a tour of the facility. As always, we are available to answer any questions you may have.

Gerald Frye, VMD  
Medical Director / Pittsburgh, PA

**Virginia Office**  
 165 Fort Evans, SE  
 Leesburg, VA 20176  
 PHONE 703.669.2829  
 FAX 703.852.3466



**Pittsburgh Office**  
 807 Camp Horne Road  
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## MRI/CT Referral Form

Please complete the following and fax together with all necessary paperwork to your local imaging center.

### General Information

- It is very important to note that your patient will be anesthetized for the MRI/CT. Please advise your clients as to the risks of anesthesia as well as any special instructions regarding medications to be given before the MRI/CT
- We are not equipped to handle laboratory testing or imaging other than MRI/CT. Therefore, all required testing must be completed by you and results furnished prior to our anesthetizing your patient. A list of required tests has been provided. Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any specific questions
- We strongly recommend that a radiograph of the area to be imaged is obtained before anesthetizing your patient as metallic objects such as bullets or BBs near the area of interest can prevent us from getting a diagnostic exam
- As we are an outpatient facility only, patients must be stabilized before we can proceed with an MRI/CT

### Referring Veterinarian Information

Clinic Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Veterinarian #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Veterinarian #2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clinic Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Client and Patient Information

Client's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Work # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Patient's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Species \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

### Case History and Medical Information

Please indicate patient history including past and current medical problem(s), results of all diagnostic testing, any medication(s) prescribed, and response to medication(s), if any. Please include any sensitivity to anesthesia or any known allergies. Attach patient history.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. AREA TO BE IMAGED (please check/circle)

SPINE	BRAIN	HEAD/NECK	LIMB/JOINTS	SOFT TISSUE
<input type="checkbox"/> C1-T2	<input type="checkbox"/> Brain	<input type="checkbox"/> Nasal Cavity	<input type="checkbox"/> Brachial Plexus (L / R )	<input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen
<input type="checkbox"/> T3-L3		<input type="checkbox"/> Osseous Bullae	<input type="checkbox"/> Lumbosacral Plexus	<input type="checkbox"/> Chest Wall
<input type="checkbox"/> L4-Sacrum		<input type="checkbox"/> Orbits	<input type="checkbox"/> Stifle (L / R )	<input type="checkbox"/> Lungs
<input type="checkbox"/> T3-Sacrum		<input type="checkbox"/> Sinus	<input type="checkbox"/> Elbow (L / R )	(Mets eval)
<input type="checkbox"/> C1-Sacrum (double study)		<input type="checkbox"/> Soft Tissue Neck	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip (L / R )	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Pelvis (L / R )	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder (L / R )	

#### 2. SPECIFIC SEQUENCES REQUESTED (please check):

Standard MRI       Standard CT       Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Veterinarian Requesting Test \_\_\_\_\_

## Testing Requirements in Preparation for General Anesthesia

Please note that general anesthesia is required for all veterinary patients having an MRI/CT. It is the policy of PetsDx Veterinary Imaging that all patients must have the appropriate testing completed prior to being anesthetized for the scan. The following are minimum requirements based on the age and physical status of your patient.

### Testing Requirements - Patients Less than Five Years of Age

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>REQUIRED TESTS</u>
I or II <sup>a</sup>	PCV, TP, BUN
III <sup>b</sup>	CBC, General Health Profile, Serum Electrolytes, T4, ECG <sup>c</sup>
IV or V <sup>d</sup>	CBC, General Health Profile, Serum Electrolytes, ECG, Chest Radiographs

### Testing Requirements - Patients Over Five Years of Age

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>REQUIRED TESTS</u>
I or II <sup>a</sup>	PCV, Pre – Anesthetic Profile
III <sup>b</sup>	CBC, General Health Profile, Serum Electrolytes, T4, ECG
IV or V <sup>d</sup>	CBC, General Health Profile, Serum Electrolytes, T4, ECG, Chest Radiographs

<sup>a</sup> Testing should be completed within 30 days of the referral

<sup>b</sup> Testing should be completed within 7 days of the referral

<sup>c</sup> If cardiac disease is present

<sup>d</sup> Testing should be completed within 48 hours of the referral

### Classification of Physical Status for Patients Undergoing Anesthesia\*

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>EXAMPLES</u>
I	No organic disease	
II	Mild or moderate systemic disease without functional impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Cardiac disease, compensated (no medication)</li> <li>▶ Obesity</li> <li>▶ Orthopedic disease</li> <li>▶ Geriatric</li> <li>▶ Pediatric</li> </ul>
III	Organic disease with definite functional impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Anemia, mild</li> <li>▶ Anorexia</li> <li>▶ Cardiac disease, compensated (with medication)</li> <li>▶ Dehydration, mild</li> <li>▶ Fever, mild</li> <li>▶ Neurologic symptoms (Seizures, Vestibular syndrome, Ataxia, Paresis)</li> </ul>
IV	Severe disease that is life - threatening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Anemia, severe</li> <li>▶ Cardiac disease, noncompensated</li> <li>▶ Pulmonary disease</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sepsis</li> <li>▶ Shock</li> <li>▶ Renal disease</li> </ul>
V	Moribund patient, not expected to survive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Major trauma</li> <li>▶ Profound shock</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Multi – organ failure</li> <li>▶ Severe head injury</li> </ul>

\*Adapted from the American Society of Anesthesiologists

**Your patient's well – being is very important to us, and we will not anesthetize them without the appropriate testing on file.**



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## **PET OWNER INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS**

***What is MRI?*** MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. It is an advanced imaging technology that has been safely used in human medicine for the last two decades. MRI is non – invasive and it is not painful.

***How does an MRI work?*** MRI 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 by a computer.

***What is CT?*** CT stands for Computed Tomography. It has also been called a CAT Scan. CT scans are also non-invasive and non-painful. CT has been used safely in human medicine since the 1970's.

***How does CT work?*** CT uses low levels of x-rays to image structures inside the body. Think of CT as an x-ray machine that circles the body. Each rotation creates a different image just millimeters apart.

***Why has an MRI or CT been recommended for my pet?*** MRI and CT are very powerful imaging modalities. It has been recommended because it provides exceptional bone and soft tissue detail. We can image areas such as the sinus cavities, brain, spinal cord, intervertebral disks, abdominal organs, lungs, muscle, bones, nerves, tendons, ligaments and joints with much more detail than the average x-ray. The results of the MRI or CT will help your veterinarian make a definitive diagnosis and offer you the best options for treating your pet. .

***How do I schedule a MRI/CT?*** 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 or CT, we will have you leave them with us for the day. However, they must be picked up by 4:30 p.m. as we are not available to care for them overnight. If needed, you may wait during the MRI/CT. Please notify the receptionist when scheduling the appointment if you are planning on waiting.

***How should I prepare my pet for the MRI/CT?*** Pets having a MRI or CT 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 alright for them to have water available until two hours prior to their scheduled appointment time. Ask your veterinarian or call us 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/CT?*** Your pet will be anesthetized for around 15-30 minutes if they are having a CT scan. MRI patients are usually under anesthesia for about 45-90 minutes to get all the sequences necessary. Before any anesthesia is given, we'll make sure that your pet is examined thoroughly. The type of anesthesia we use depends on your pet's problem. We'll place an intravenous catheter and your pet will get fluids throughout the procedure. All vital signs will be carefully monitored during the anesthesia.

***What happens to my pet after the MRI/CT?*** After the MRI/CT, 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 awake and oriented, they will be discharged. Your pet may urinate a large amount after it gets home because of the fluids given during the anesthesia. Once home, it is important to keep your pet away from stairs and furniture until it has fully recovered so that it does not hurt itself. Your pet should be back to normal the morning following the scan.

***How do we proceed after the MRI/CT?*** After the MRI/CT, the images will be read by a highly qualified, board – certified veterinary radiologist. Results will be returned to your family veterinarian’s office within 48 hours after the appointment.

**Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns regarding the procedure.**

**Please visit us at our website:**

**[www.petsdx.com](http://www.petsdx.com)**



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## Payment Policy

**Please review our payment policy with your clients before referral. We do not want your client to have any surprises about the cost of tests.**

- The cost to have one region scanned with the MRI is \$1400-1700.00. This also includes patient care and monitoring, IV catheter placement and fluid administration, pre-medications, anesthetic induction and maintenance as well as the radiologist's reading fee. If a second region is requested on the MRI, the charge is 50% of the first. If you are unsure whether or not a second region will be needed, please do not hesitate to contact us.
- The cost for a CT of one region varies from \$435-1125.00. This is the total price and includes patient care and monitoring, intravenous catheter placement and fluid administration, pre – medications, anesthetic induction and maintenance as well as the radiologist's reading fee. Additional regions are billed at the same price as the first. If you are unsure whether additional areas need to be included, please contact us.
- Payment for the MRI/CT will be made by the client upon arrival at our facility. We accept cash, personal check, American Express, Discover, Visa, and MasterCard. We also offer CareCredit and accept pet insurance. At this time, we are unable to bill clients.
- Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions.



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**Help us learn more about you!** PetsDx Veterinary Imaging is a fixed diagnostic imaging center dedicated to providing advanced imaging exclusively for veterinary patients. At PetsDx, we understand that you have a special relationship with your clients. We also understand that a relationship built on honesty, trust, and understanding is critical to our mutual success. When referring patients to us, you can take comfort in knowing that we will work together as a team to advance patient care without interfering with that special relationship you have with your clients.

**Please take a minute to provide us with information about you and your clinic**

Practice Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarians \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Office Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of Operation Monday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Hours \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or Questions \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one of the following:**

I am interested in a tour of the facility

I am interested in a member of the PetsDx team providing education at my clinic

**Completed forms may be mailed or faxed to us at 412.774.1999. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with this information. We look forward to working together with you!**



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## How does the referral process work?

A referral can be made by speaking directly with the veterinarian at the Pittsburgh site on Camp Horne Road or faxing the referral form and pertinent medical record. Once the referral has been arranged, your clients can schedule an appointment with us directly.

All pertinent information, including medical records and results of recent blood work should be faxed to our office in advance of your client's appointment. X-rays can be brought in by the client on the appointment day. If you have digital radiography, you may e-mail us the X-rays or send a CD along with the client.

The day of the MRI/CT, our office will usually call to inform you the study has been completed. Billing can be done either directly at our facility (American Express, Care Credit, VISA, MasterCard, Discover, Check) or through your office. Please contact us for details.

If you have any questions after receiving the report from the radiologist, please feel free to contact our office.



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## **Directions to PetsDx Veterinary Imaging**

### **Directions from the North and Northwest:**

Take I-79 South to I-279 South (Exit #72 on left) toward Pittsburgh//Follow I-279 South to Camp Horne Road (Exit #15)//Make a right on Camp Horne Road//PVSEC is the second building on the right. Our office is located on the second floor of the Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center across the road from North Hills Auto Mail. The entrance for PetsDx is in the rear of the building

### **Directions from the South Hills – Fort Pitt Tunnel:**

Go thru the Fort Pitt Tunnel and take I-279 North//Follow I-279 North to Camp Horne Road (Exit #15)// Make a left on Camp Horne Road//PVSEC is the second building on the right. Our office is located on the second floor of the Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center across the road from North Hills Auto Mall. The entrance for PetsDx is in the rear of the building.

### **Directions from the South Hills-Liberty Tunnels/Bridge:**

Go thru the Liberty Tunnels and across the Liberty Bridge//Follow signs for I-579 North and merge onto I-279N North//Follow I-279 North to Camp Horne Road (Exit #15)// Make a left on Camp Horne Road//PVSEC is the second building on the right. Our office is located on the second floor of the Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center across the road from North Hills Auto Mall. The entrance for PetsDx is in the rear of the building.

**Directions from Northeast-Route 28:**

Take Route 28 South and exit at East Ohio Street//Follow signs for I-279 North//Follow I-279 North to Camp Horne Road (Exit #15)//Make a left on Camp Horne Road//PVSEC is the second building on the right. Our office is located on the second floor of the Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center across the road from North Hills Auto Mall. The entrance for PetsDx is in the rear of the building.

**Directions from Airport/West Suburbs:**

Take I-79 North to the Emsworth Exit (Exit #66)//Follow Route 65 South toward Pittsburgh//Make a left on Camp Horne Road//Follow 1.8 miles to PVSEC (on the left, 0.2 miles past Willow Restaurant). Our office is located on the second floor of the Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center across the road from North Hills Auto Mall. The entrance for PetsDx is in the rear of the building.

# Increased MRI Sensitivity

1. Head/Brain
  - a. Chronic nasal discharge/epistaxis
  - b. Congenital malformations
  - c. Foramen magnum lesions
  - d. Foreign body
  - e. Hematoma (sub acute vs. acute vs. chronic)
  
  - f. Hydrocephalus
  - g. Infection
  
  - h. Meningeal disease
  - i. Metastatic disease
  - j. Neoplasia
  - k. Optic chiasm disease
  - l. Orbital disease
  - m. Pituitary micro/macro adenomas
  - n. Posterior fossa pathology
  - o. Post traumatic change
  - p. Seizures
  - q. Spinocerebellar degeneration
  - r. Stroke (sub acute vs. acute vs. chronic)
  - s. Syringomyelia (Chiari malformation)

2. Cervical spine
  - a. Bone marrow disease
  - b. Cervical vertebral instability
  - c. Disc disease
  - d. Discospondylitis
  - e. Neoplasia
  - f. Osteomyelitis
  - g. Salivary gland abnormalities
  - h. Spinal metastases
  - i. Syrinx

3. Thoracolumbar spine
  - a. Bone marrow disease
  - b. Discospondylitis
  - c. Early disc disease
  - d. Osteomyelitis
  - e. Post surgical scar
  - f. Spinal metastases

4. Body
  - a. Adrenal tumors
  - b. Heart-based tumors
  - c. Extent of hepatic tumors  
-primary vs. metastatic
  - d. Extent of prostatic tumors
  - e. Extent of renal tumors
  - f. Extent of soft tissue tumors
  - g. Pancreatic tumors
  - h. Mediastinal masses  
-esp. with pleural fluid

# Increased CT Sensitivity

1. Acute head injury
2. Degen. bony abnormalities
3. Ectopic ureters
4. Fragmented coronoid
5. Lung nodules
6. Small calcified lesions
7. Skeletal trauma