APPOINTMENT PREPARATION

Preparing for an X-Ray

> This page covers fasting, timing, and what to expect for your pet's upcoming X-ray appointment. If your pet is also having an ultrasound, please see our ultrasound information page as well.

What an X-Ray Involves

An X-ray (radiograph) lets us look at your pet's bones and internal structures like the lungs, heart, and abdomen. The imaging itself only takes a few minutes, but getting a clear, diagnostic image usually means your pet needs to hold very still.

Often, injectable sedation is required to get the best X-rays possible. X-rays performed on animals who are wiggly and/or panting are frequently of low diagnostic quality and are sometimes impossible to interpret.

Fasting and Preparation

ℹ In case injectable sedation is needed, please do not feed your pet for 3 hours before your appointment. Water is allowed at any time.

- If X-rays are being performed to evaluate the bladder, please don't let your pet urinate within 2 hours beforehand.
- If X-rays are being performed to evaluate the stomach or intestines, your vet may in some cases ask you to fast your pet for a period of time beforehand — this is more likely if it's a repeat X-ray to monitor changes over time, or if we're looking for a foreign body obstruction.

Appointment Basics

Before your appointment:

- Please answer some questions about your pet's current health when asked at check-in, or ahead of time using our history questionnaire — this helps streamline your visit when you arrive.
- If you haven't already, please confirm your appointment by emailing hello@royalbayvet.ca.

At your appointment, here's what to expect, in order:

1. **Check-in**
   Our team will confirm your pet's fasting status (if applicable) and go over any last details before the appointment.
2. **Health history questions**
   We'll ask a series of questions about your pet's health history if this hasn't already been covered — please allow some time for this.
3. **Signing the consent form**
   If sedation is needed, we'll need you to sign a consent form authorizing this for your pet. You can do this at check-in, or fill it out in advance to help streamline things — see the ultrasound/sedation consent form.
4. **Taking the X-rays**
   Your pet is taken to the back for the X-rays, either awake or under sedation depending on what's needed.
5. **Recovery, if sedated**
   If your pet needed sedation, they'll need some time to recover afterward — sedated pets are dropped off rather than waited for. If sedation wasn't needed, you're welcome to wait; this usually takes about 5–30 minutes depending on how many X-rays are required.

When Will My Pet Be Ready for Pick-Up?

Some pets can be radiographed without sedation. In that case, your visit will typically be much shorter and you won't need to drop your pet off. X-rays can take from 5 to 30 minutes depending on how many are being taken and how difficult they are to position properly.

Some pets absolutely must have sedation in order to get good images. If sedated, some pets wake up quickly, while others take hours — there's real individual variation, and it's hard to predict.

For these reasons, sedated pets are dropped off, and pick-up time is sometimes hours later. We ask for your trust and patience — we'll call you as soon as your pet is ready.

When Will I Find Out the Results?

Turnaround time depends on when your vet has time to review the X-rays, or whether they are being referred out for a radiologist to review. Sometimes we are able to report our findings the same day, but it can take longer. Most times we will report back to you within 4 days.

Concerned About Cost?

We never want cost to stand in the way of your pet getting the care they need. If you'd like to explore pet insurance or payment plan options, see our financing options page.

Add a Photo to Your Pet's Profile

Feel free to email us your favourite photo of your pet at hello@royalbayvet.ca so we can add it to their patient profile!

Questions Before Your Appointment?

If anything about your appointment isn't clear, or your pet's situation has changed since booking, please reach out before your visit.

ROYAL BAY VETERINARY CLINIC

During clinic hours

250-940-4646

hello@royalbayvet.ca

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES

Central Victoria Veterinary Hospital

250-475-2495

760 Roderick St

WAVES Emergency

778-432-4322

947 Langford Parkway