



ECHOCARDIOGRAM SERVICES

Performed by
Nicki Foster, RVT

****Please call the hospital's direct line to make an appointment**
(951) 677-7007**

What is an Echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram is a non-invasive ultrasound that uses sound waves to create real-time images of your pet's heart. This allows us to visualize its size, shape, and how well the chambers and valves are functioning.

Why Might Your Pet Need One?

An echocardiogram can help diagnose various heart conditions, such as:

- Heart murmurs
- Coughing or difficulty breathing
- Weakness or fainting episodes
- Irregular heartbeats
- Monitoring of known heart disease
- Evaluation before certain procedures or surgeries

How much does an echocardiogram cost?

\$850.00*

*The \$850 fee includes one (1) exam by a Murrieta Oaks Veterinary Hospital Veterinarian, sedation (if deemed necessary), one (1) echocardiogram performed by Nicki Foster, RVT. The results will be interpreted by a Cardiologist at IDEXX, and a report will be sent to the Primary Veterinarian (DVM).

Visualize Your Pet's Heart Health with Echocardiograms by Nicki Foster, RVT

For over a decade, Nicki Foster, a dedicated and skilled Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT), has been an integral part of the Murrieta Oaks Veterinary Hospital team. Known for her compassionate approach and commitment to excellent patient care, Nicki has now expanded her expertise to include veterinary echocardiography. In November 2024, Nicki completed a specialized and comprehensive training program at the esteemed, Sound Academy for Veterinary Echocardiogram. This advanced education equips her to perform in-house echocardiograms, a non-invasive ultrasound technique that provides real-time, moving images of your pet's heart.

Nicki's focus during these detailed cardiac imaging sessions is primarily on the right side of your pet's heart, allowing for thorough assessment of its size, shape, structure, and overall function. When clinically indicated, Nicki may also utilize limited pulse wave Doppler to evaluate blood flow patterns. Depending on your pet's comfort and positioning during the examination, Nicki may also acquire valuable views of the left side of the heart from the apex (the bottom tip).

With her newly acquired expertise in echocardiography, combined with her long-standing dedication to our patients, Nicki is excited to offer this vital diagnostic service. You can trust Nicki to provide thorough, gentle, and insightful cardiac evaluations, helping you ensure the long-term cardiovascular well-being of your beloved companion.

Echocardiogram Guidelines

To ensure the high-quality imaging and a successful procedure, please review the following requirements:

- Patients must weigh under 40 lbs. This facilitates optimal image quality.
- Patients must be cooperative and friendly.
- Patients must be able to lay down comfortably on both the right and left side for up to one (1) hour.
- Gabapentin and Trazodone (sedative) may be administered the day before and the morning of the procedure to help facilitate positioning (prescribed by your primary Veterinarian).
- An injectable sedative may be used during the procedure, if necessary, to aid in image acquisition.
- If the patient is not an established client of Murrieta Oaks Veterinary Hospital, the echocardiogram report will be sent to the referring hospital. Your primary veterinarian will then communicate the results directly to the client (you).