

What is Vet MR?

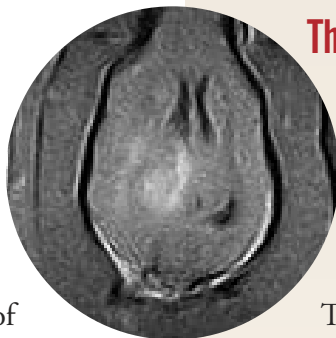
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is an imaging method used by veterinary specialists to view internal body structures. The MRI uses combinations of radio waves and magnetic fields. The properties of magnetism create internal 3-dimensional images of the soft tissues of the body. The Vet MR is an “open” MRI system, modified for small animals.

VET MR is an ideal way to assess the brain, spine and joints

What to expect from Vet MR

The Vet MR non-invasively produces multi-planar pictures that can define the location, distribution, mass effect, or other characteristics of soft tissues in the body.

It is used when no other methods of imaging, such as radiographs or ultrasound, are effective in evaluating the area of interest. It is ideal for imaging the brain, spinal cord and joints. Animals with back problems, knee problems, or suspected brain pathology may benefit from imaging by the Vet MR.



brain tumor

The Vet MR “Team”

There are many individuals working together as a team to make sure that the MRI for your pet happens as efficiently and safely as possible.

The receptionist, nurse and doctor that admit your pet, the veterinary nurse and doctor that administer and monitor anesthesia, the MRI technician that works to create the images, and the radiologist that reads the MRI each play a critical role in the success of this procedure.

The MRI must be performed at a time when all of the team can best coordinate their efforts. Your pet’s safety will take precedence. We ask for your understanding with more critical patients.



You should know...

Most MRI scans can take between 60 and 120 minutes. General anesthesia is required for all veterinary patients and can be a cause of morbidity in high risk patients. Because the MRI is a very powerful magnet, some pets cannot be safely scanned because they have things like pacemakers or metal implants.

Orthopedic hardware in your pet’s body can cause blurs on the pictures thus rendering it useless.



The results of the Vet MR

In medicine, the diagnosis of disease is rarely the result of a single exam or test. The MRI results are meant to be evaluated with the history, physical and neuro-orthopedic examination, laboratory data, and other appropriate testing to provide a diagnosis, treatment plan, or prognosis specific for your pet.

What is the procedure?

1. Withhold food 12 hours prior to the scheduled arrival time and remove any external metal objects.
2. A veterinary nurse will triage your pet to determine if there are any life-threatening concerns that require immediate intervention.
3. A veterinarian performs a complete physical and neuro-orthopedic examination of your pet. A diagnostic and therapeutic plan is made and discussed with you along with associated risks and costs.
4. Initial diagnostic information is obtained prior to anesthesia (eg. blood tests, blood pressure).
5. An IV catheter is placed and intravenous fluids administered during the procedure.
6. General anesthesia is administered, the pet is intubated and closely monitored with blood pressure, pulse oximetry and end-tidal CO₂. Special precautions, diagnostics and therapy may be necessary, such as CSF tap and analysis or myelogram.
7. The MRI technician performs the imaging and the pet is recovered under the close observation of the ICU nurses and veterinarians.
8. Discharge from the hospital occurs when the veterinarians determine your pet to be stable.
9. Within 24-48 hours a report of the MRI assessment made by a veterinary radiologist is obtained and the results are discussed with the pet owner.



Map & Directions

From I-43, take Silver Spring Drive West Exit for 0.9 miles. AEC is on the north side of Silver Spring, just past Green Bay Road. Turn directly from Silver Spring Drive into the AEC parking lot.

From I-45, take Silver Spring Drive East Exit for 6.0 miles. AEC is on the north side of Silver Spring, just past Teutonia Avenue. Turn left on Crestwood Boulevard at the light to enter the AEC parking lot from this direction.




Animal Emergency Center
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2100 West Silver Spring Drive
Glendale, WI 53223
1-414-540-6710

www.animalemergencycenter.com

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