

## PetSound Specialist Care – Consent for Ultrasound and Associated Procedures

Patient Name:		Species / Breed:	
Age / Sex:		Owner Name:	
Date:		Attending Veterinarian:	

Your pet has been recommended an ultrasound examination. In some cases, this procedure may involve sedation or anaesthesia, cystocentesis (collecting urine directly from the bladder with a needle), and/or fine-needle aspirates (FNA – collecting cells from an organ or mass with a small needle). This form ensures you understand the procedures, their purpose, and the associated risks before you consent.

### Procedure Overview

- **Ultrasound Examination:** Ultrasound is a non-invasive imaging technique that uses sound waves to produce valuable information about the structural appearance of the internal organs. Ultrasound beams are unable to pass through air trapped in the fur. As such, fur is clipped from the areas that need to be assessed with ultrasound. This may include but is not limited to the abdomen, the chest and the neck. While generally well tolerated, clipping can occasionally result in minor skin irritation or temporary redness at the site.
- **Sedation with Anaesthesia (if required):** Sedation will be given in just about every case. It is given to reduce stress, improve procedure safety, and allow PetSound to obtain high-quality diagnostic images or perform additional procedures. Anaesthesia is required if sedation is inadequate or if more invasive procedures are required.
- **Cystocentesis:** A sterile needle is passed through the abdominal wall into the urinary bladder to obtain a urine sample. This is the best way to obtain a sterile urine sample.
- **Fine-Needle Aspirates (FNA):** A small needle is passed into an organ, mass, or lymph node to collect cells for microscopic evaluation.

### Sedation / Anaesthesia – Potential Risks

Sedation or anaesthesia is generally very safe, however, there are risks. These include low blood pressure, changes in heart rate, slowed breathing, prolonged recovery, or adverse reactions to medications. Rare but serious complications, including life-threatening events, can occur, particularly in patients with significant underlying disease. The risk of death is

estimate to be 0.05-0.1% in dogs and cats respectively. Every effort is made to minimise these risks and monitor your pet closely.

### **Cystocentesis – Potential Risks**

Cystocentesis involves inserting a sterile needle through the abdominal wall into the urinary bladder to obtain a urine sample. This is a common and generally very safe procedure.

- **Minor Complications:** Mild bruising, transient blood in the urine, or temporary discomfort at the puncture site may occur. These minor effects are significantly reduced if your pet is calm or lightly sedated at the time of the procedure.
- **Major Complications (Rare):** In very rare cases, leakage of urine into the abdomen, laceration of a blood vessel, or infection may occur. Based on published studies, the estimated rate of major complications is approximately 0.02% (Manfredi et al. 2018).

### **Fine-Needle Aspirates of Intra-Abdominal Structures – Potential Risks**

Fine-needle aspirates (FNA) of abdominal organs (such as liver, spleen, lymph nodes, or other masses) are widely used diagnostic procedures and are generally considered to be very safe.

- **Minor Complications:** The most common risks include mild bleeding, bruising, or transient discomfort at the sampling site. These are typically self-limiting. Sedation or ensuring your pet remains calm during the procedure can help reduce these risks.
- **Published Complication Rates:** Most available data relate to hepatic (liver) aspirates. In one study of canine liver aspirates, a 2.7% complication rate was reported, with none considered severe. Fatal haemorrhagic complications have also been rarely reported, with an estimated rate of 0.33–0.65% (Llanos et al. 2023) for liver aspirates in dogs and cats.
- **Other Major Complications (Rare):** Severe bleeding, infection, or damage to surrounding tissues can occur but are uncommon.

Overall, FNAs of intra-abdominal structures are regarded as low-risk procedures, with most complications being minor and transient.

### Owner Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that:

- I have been informed of the nature, purpose, and potential risks of the above procedures
- I understand that no guarantee of diagnosis or outcome can be made.
- I consent to the use of sedation and/or anaesthesia if deemed necessary by the attending veterinarian.
- I consent to cystocentesis
- I consent to fine-needle aspirates if indicated during the ultrasound.
- I have disclosed all known medical conditions, medications, and allergies of my pet.
- I acknowledge that I will pay the additional fees associated with the procedures listed above, if and only in the unlikely event they may become necessary.

### Owner Consent

Owner / Agent Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_