

July 24, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

This is an open letter concerning both the use of ultrasound as a diagnostic tool in our practice, and, more specifically, our relationship with Dr. Martin Henderson over the past five years.

We are a twenty-four hour, full-service veterinary hospital with nine doctors and a large client base. Our caseload runs the gamut from orthopedic and soft tissue surgeries to internal medicine to chemotherapy. In the course of our case workups, we have found the modality of ultrasound to be invaluable in both diagnostics and prognostics. The following are just a few cases that serve as examples:

- Abdominal ultrasound:

neoplasia - single masses versus more invasive disease helping to decide whether surgery is a viable option ; fine-needle-aspirate of abdominal mass to obtain diagnosis without surgery; metastatic disease

pancreas - pancreatitis versus neoplasia

intestinal - changes suggesting inflammatory bowel disease versus neoplasia (lymphoma); changes suggestive of a foreign body or obstruction

liver - hepatic lipidosis; gall bladder disease; masses; possible shunts

urogenital - prostatic hypertrophy versus cystic versus neoplasia; radiolucent cystic calculi

adrenal disease - compatible with hyperadrenocorticism? adrenal mass?

post-operative - to rule-out dehiscence and whether a second surgery is indicated; ascites

- Thoracic ultrasound:

cardiac - much more accurate assessment of cardiac function; gives better prognostic parameters;
ruptured chordae tendonae? pericardial fluid? masses?

masses or areas of consolidation - where possible can assess and obtain fine-needle-aspirate

diaphragmatic hernia

- Cephalic:

hydrocephalus - in young animals used to diagnose hydrocephalic condition

We offer ultrasound to our clients on a daily basis because it offers a non-invasive diagnostic tool that allows us to obtain a significant amount of information, helpful in diagnosis and recommendations for further treatment. Many clients who are reluctant to proceed with surgery will consent to an ultrasound. The majority of the animals don't require sedation, and the results are immediately known. This appeals to clients. Our hospital has not pursued having our own in-house ultrasound service because of the enormity of the learning curve to become proficient.

We have worked with Dr. Henderson over the past five years, and even though we understand his motivations for leaving our area, we are reluctant to see him go. He has proven to be a large asset to our hospital, both in diagnostics and personal relationships. Many days he has altered his schedule to accommodate our needs for emergency cases and has allowed us to add on cases when necessary. He has always been willing to discuss the details of each case and pursue obtaining ultrasonic information to assist us with the diagnosis. He is a valued colleague, and we would highly recommend his services.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions concerning our use of ultrasound or questions concerning Dr. Henderson's services which we used.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard T. Johnson, D.V.M." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Richard T. Johnson, D.V.M.
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