



Veterinary X-Rays Get to the Heart of the Matter

Part I of II in Our "Seeing Your Pets From the Inside Out" Series



From identifying swallowed foreign objects to detecting early signs of heart disease to locating bone fractures, radiographic images (better known as x-rays) are a common and essential diagnostic tool used at West Chelsea Veterinary on a daily basis.

"X-rays give our vets insight into what's troubling your pet, and help us determine the next steps in treating the medical issue," says Dr. Jennifer Mlekoday, DVM, West Chelsea Veterinary's Co-Chief of Staff. "And through the use of state-of-the-art digital radiographic technology, we've ensured the x-ray process is a comfortable, safe, and easy process for your pet."

High-tech equipment ensures enhanced visual quality

X-rays are a form of electromagnetic radiation, like visible light. In the past, when vets used radiography as a diagnostic tool, it could be difficult to determine the best exposure to get the most accurate results. Today's modern technology allows for more consistent results, meaning less time is spent on capturing a readable x-ray. In addition, our equipment allows for digital enhancements, ensuring we have the ability to thoroughly investigate the issue your pet is facing.

"For example, a dog or cat's mouth is much smaller than a human's, meaning their teeth, gums, and jaw can be more difficult to examine," notes Dr. Mlekoday. "By using digital enhancements, we're able to enlarge dental x-rays for more thorough observation."

Timely results allows for better overall care

Our digital radiographic equipment produces digital x-ray images immediately, eliminating the lengthy film development process. Not only does this allow our vets easier and more timely access to your pet's condition in emergency situations, it also gives us the ability to quickly and efficiently consult radiography specialists via e-mail, ensuring your loved one gets the best care possible without having to leave West Chelsea Veterinary. Your pet's x-rays will also be digitally stored in your pet's electronic medical record, allowing easy access for future reference or potential future care.

Reduced radiation means less stress for pets

Pets are not like humans; they can't be expected to sit still for x-rays, which means that mild sedation – and sometimes even general anesthesia – is required for securing sharp, accurate x-rays. Through the use of digital equipment, we'll ensure your pet is in and out of the procedure as quickly as possible, meaning less sedation and less radiation exposure overall for your favourite critter.

"While digital radiography is a completely painless procedure, we always feel the faster your pet is back to its normal routine, the better," adds Dr. Mlekoday.



TOP USES FOR DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY

As a non-invasive and cost-efficient procedure, digital radiography is one of the most common diagnostic tools used at West Chelsea Veterinary. X-rays can be used to:

- identify certain types of foreign objects in your pet's stomach
- detect early signs of heart disease
- detect dental problems or disease
- determine the location and severity of a fracture
- detect masses in the abdomen or chest cavity
- reveal irregular gas patterns or bunching of the small intestine
- detect signs of arthritis and other joint and bone abnormalities

Digital radiography helps contribute to your pet's health and well-being



Keep household objects away from pets

Remember to keep your beloved canine or feline away from these common items, which can cause considerable damage to your pet's digestive tract, vomiting or diarrhea, or require a costly and invasive surgical procedure.



KITCHEN

- magnets
- toothpicks
- shish kabob skewers
- aluminium foil
- kitchen strings



BATHROOM

- dental floss



BEDROOM & LIVING ROOM

- mothballs
- pennies
- alkaline batteries



OTHER HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS

- buttons
- small children's toys
- jewelry
- nails and screws



One of the most common uses for digital radiography is to detect foreign objects in your pet's stomach. While your pet is bound to swallow something (or many things!) it's not supposed to in its lifetime, there are certain common household items that can have negative – and even fatal – consequences for your pet if swallowed.