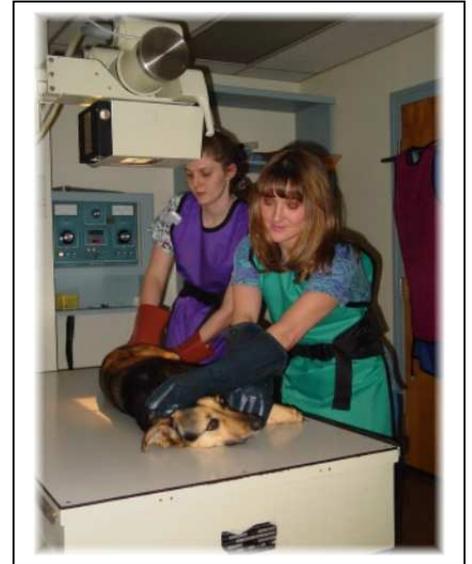


RADIOLOGY

Radiographs, commonly referred to as x-rays, are routinely used in diagnosing illnesses in pets. The most common uses for radiographs are to diagnose bone fractures, but they are used in many other situations as well. Some of the many uses for x-rays are to evaluate heart disease, lung disease, abdominal diseases, and to evaluate animals as carriers of certain skeletal diseases, such as hip and elbow dysplasia.

Ferry Farm Animal Clinic is equipped to do a wide range of radiology procedures. Our x-ray facilities will handle the largest dog to the smallest cat. An automatic processor gives developed films for our doctors to examine within minutes. In some cases, radiographs can be taken while you wait with your pet. However, radiation safety regulations prohibit owners from being present in the room while the exposures are taken. Often it is easier to have patients admitted for the day. This gives the doctors time to evaluate the radiographs, take additional views if needed, and consult with each other about your pet's condition. Many x-rays can be taken with the patient awake, requiring minimal positioning and restraint. In other situations, sedation or anesthesia is necessary due to the abnormal positioning that is required for certain radiograph procedures, or in painful situations such as fractures or trauma. We also offer contrast studies of the gastrointestinal tract, kidneys, and urinary bladder when indicated by medical condition.



Radiology is also used to evaluate animals for inclusion in a breeding program. Many breeds have problems with diseases like hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia. When deciding whether a particular individual will be part of a quality breeding program, x-rays can be used to screen for underlying genetic diseases that could be passed on to future generations of puppies. We perform OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) radiographs for both hips and elbows. The radiographs are sent to the OFA, where board-certified radiologists evaluate and score the hip and elbow joint conformation. We also perform PennHip radiographs to evaluate for hip dysplasia. PennHip is a new procedure that measures the amount of laxity in the hip joint directly, providing more accurate information about hip joint anatomy. Dr. Witter is one of the few veterinarians in the area certified to perform PennHip radiographs. Through these procedures, we are helping clients to breed healthier puppies, as well as making progress in overall breed improvement.

Shown below are examples of radiographs taken at Ferry Farm Animal Clinic:



OFA Radiograph



Canine Pregnancy



Fractured Leg in a Cat