



SERVICES WE OFFER:

Radiography (x-rays)

What is it?

Radiography – or as most people now call it X-rays – is a way of imaging the animal's internal tissues, organs and structures by passing an X-ray beam through the body onto a film or some form of digital media.

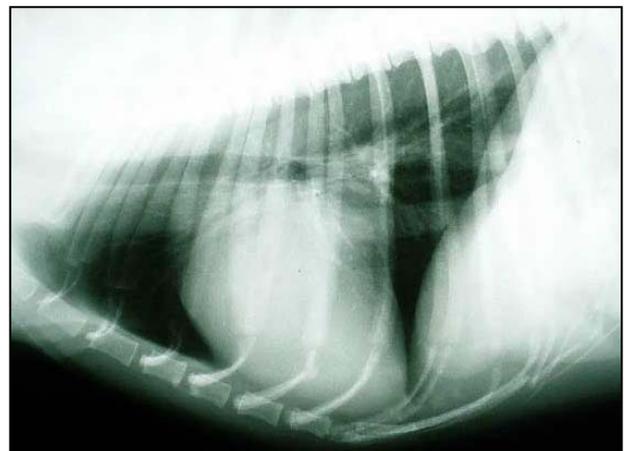
At Sarah Smith Cardiology all our radiography is performed digitally which means that we have results within seconds – rather than having to wait longer periods for films to be developed chemically. We can also enhance or improve images for greater detail or information without having to retake the X-ray and putting the patient through extra unnecessary procedures. Digital x-rays can also be forwarded to your own veterinary surgeon electronically so they are aware of everything that has been done to your pet.

What is involved?

Unfortunately due to Health and Safety regulations and the fact that X-rays involve radiation, this is one of the procedures where you may **NOT** remain with your pet.

An animal having an X-ray is exactly the same as one of us having an X-ray, except that animals rarely sit completely still or in the required position to achieve good quality diagnostic images. Under health and safety guidelines laid down by the RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) animals are not allowed to be manually restrained (i.e. held in place by a member of staff) so in some cases heavy sedation or even a general anaesthetic is required. However, due to the nature of the cardiac and respiratory problems that most of our patients are suffering with when they come to see us, we do try and take at least an initial X-ray with the patient conscious. We have lots of tricks up our sleeves to try and ensure even the most un-co-operative of patients sits still long enough for us to get a quick picture.

Be assured we will always discuss all of the options in detail with you before we undertake any procedure on your pet.



Lateral chest x-rays (side on view)