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|   | OFFICIAL PROTOCOL |

**AFTER-HOURS RADIOLOGY PROTOCOL**

Purpose:  To establish a defined process for providing after-hours interpretations of imaging exams and the process for utilizing PetRays or IDEXX Veterinary Telemedicine Consultants.

1. Veterinary Telemedicine Consultants will be utilized for radiographs taken between 5:00 pm to 7:00 am Monday thru Friday and on the weekends from 5:00pm Friday to 7:00 am Monday. In-house interpretations will not be available afterhours, outside of the services provided by the Veterinary Telemedicine Consultants used at the VHC: PetRays or IDEXX.
2. All radiographs will be charged for the specific exam ordered; exams interpreted afterhours will receive an additional after hours fee based on the following:
	1. PetRays afterhours charge will be $50 for up to 10 images plus the exam fee. (Example: Abdomen $210 + $50 afterhours = $260.)
	2. IDEXX afterhours charge will be $175 per series. (Example: Abdomen $210 + $175 IDEXX afterhours - $385.)
		1. Each additional site is $65 plus the routine exam fee.
3. Afterhours radiograph acquisition will be completed by a designated on-call student worker. Prior to the on-call person leaving the hospital, the ordering clinician should review the images to confirm that they are of diagnostic quality and the hanging protocol is correct before sending through Telemedicine.
4. Small Animal Exams afterhours should be sent directly to one of the options for Telemedicine, unless the clinicians utilizes discretion to hold the exam for interpretation the next business day.  This may be done in a situation where there is an obvious diagnosis and the turnaround time of the interpretation is not critical to managing the patient care. Exams held after 5:00 pm on Friday will not be interpreted onsite over the weekend; final interpretation will be completed by 12:00 PM on Monday or the next routine business day.
5. The following services areas do not utilize Telemedicine for interpretations afterhours:
	1. Livestock Services
	2. Equine Services
	3. Exotics
	4. Small Animal Surgery cases (Pre-op TPLO, Pre-op Stifle, Post-op TPLO, Post-op Stifle, Post-op Fractures, Recheck ortho study, Penn hip or OFA)
	5. Equine (Laminitis, Intra-op studies, Post-op studies, and corrective shoeing and farrier radiographs)
6. Radiographs taken on a patient who expired, should not be sent for interpretation.  These images should be held and read onsite by the Radiology section at the VHC on the following business day.