

**Russell Animal Hospital  
286 Pleasant Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
603-224-2361**

**Echocardiogram/Ultrasound**

Your veterinarian has detected a heart murmur in your pet. A heart murmur is nothing more than turbulence of blood flow heard by stethoscope. A heart murmur may be the first indication of a heart problem.

We have the ability to perform cardiac and abdominal imaging here at Russell Animal Hospital, two days a week, provided by Dr. Paul Kaplan and Dr. Josh Gidlewski of New England Veterinary Specialists.

Cardiac imaging measures heart wall thickness, heart function, assesses all heart structures including valves, and it is able to detect the following:

- 1.) Congenital heart defect (present at birth)
- 2.) Abnormal masses (tumors of the heart)
- 3.) Pericardial effusion (fluid surrounding the heart) and
- 4.) Blood flow characteristics in various areas within the heart.

Cardiac imaging is essential in diagnosing the cause of murmurs in young dogs and puppies as well as detecting heart disease, allowing for appropriate treatment of the heart condition if necessary.