Introduction: The following outlines the standard operating procedures of the NCSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital Diagnostic Ultrasound Service:

Procedures:

A. LOCATION
   1. Room 2360

B. TELEPHONE
   1. 3-6596

C. General Information:
   1. All ultrasound requests should be RIS as early as possible to facilitate scheduling of the day's cases.
   2. To request a biopsy or aspirate with a full scan please indicate in the history. If ordering only as a biopsy or aspirate please places a separate RIS order. Heavy sedation or Anes is required.
   3. To insure a thorough diagnostic examination and prevent artifacts, withhold food for 24 hours and do not give an enema. Preferably there should be some urine in the bladder but it is best to avoid either an empty or an over distended bladder.
   4. Explain to the client that an animal must receive the appropriate clip in order to insure a thorough diagnostic exam. If the client does not want the animal clipped, please talk to the sonographer and technician as well as writing it on the request.
   5. Attempts will be made for ultrasound exams to be done after radiographs. Any radiographic exam(s) should be requested prior to ultrasound to prevent wet hair artifacts from ultrasound gel. Ultrasound can be performed following a water-soluble contrast study, however, should not be performed following a barium or negative (air) contrast study (due to artifacts).
   6. Tranquilization is not mandatory but suggested for some patients to insure quality exam. Please order sedation on COF.
   7. Cystocentesis, if possible, should follow the ultrasound exam of the urinary bladder due to artifacts caused by air bubbles and blood clots.
   8. US guided fine needle aspirates and biopsies need to be coordinated with the sonographer and the ultrasound assistant. For hepatic and renal biopsies, a bleeding, clotting and a coagulation profile is recommended prior to the procedure. In most cases, it is contraindicative to perform a biopsy on a patient with peritoneal effusion (due to an increased chance of bleeding).
   9. All inquiries about results of the sonographic evaluation should be directed to the duty sonographer. The ultrasound tech is not permitted to relay diagnostic information due to the chance that important data may be misinterpreted or misrepresented.
10. Except for emergencies all large animal exams will be done after 1:00pm. Scheduling should be discussed with the duty sonographer or tech. and the LA room must be reserved. The patient should be clipped before the exam and tranquilization given if needed.