



Protocol for a complete abdominal ultrasound exam

Perform a clockwise scan starting in the cranial right abdomen.

Scan each organ, then collect representative still images, following the protocol below.

Collect videoclips as needed to supplement the still images.

When initially scanning, fan through each organ until it is no longer in view.

Structures in parentheses are landmarks that may or may not be seen in each view.

Additional images of any pathology seen should also be collected

LIVER:

Sagittal views

- Right lateral, cranial (right liver, diaphragm)
- Right lateral, caudal (caudate lobe, RK)
- Right lateral, more toward midline (GB, diaphragm)
- Midline (common bile duct, PV, CVC)
- Midline to left lateral (long axis aorta, left HV, left PV, stomach)
- Left lateral (left liver, head of spleen)

Transverse views

- Cranial: single view or separate right and left views (liver, diaphragm)
- Mid: single view or separate right and left views (GB, PVs)
- Caudal: single view or separate right and left views (CVC, HV, maybe GB)
- Right lateral from intercostal space (porta hepatis: AO, CVC, PV)

SPLEEN:

Sagittal and transverse views

- Splenic head (from left ventral abdomen or intercostal space 11-12)
- Cranial body Mid body (hilus)
- Tail Comparison view of liver and spleen

LEFT KIDNEY:

Sagittal views (fan)

- Medial (poles symmetrical)
- Medial (renal sinus/pelvis)
- Mid (with & w/o measurement)
- Lateral
- Comparison view (split screen if needed) of liver and kidney

Transverse views (slide)

- Cranial pole
- Mid (renal sinus/pelvis)
- Caudal pole

LEFT ADRENAL GLAND: Sagittal view with and without measurements

LEFT OVARY

URINARY BLADDER:

Sagittal views

- Lateral to the right
- Mid (may need separate views to see the apex and the trigone)
- Lateral to the left

Transverse views

- Cranial
- Mid
- Caudal (trigone)

SUBLUMBAR REGION:

- Blood vessels/lymph nodes dorsal to bladder (sagittal and transverse)

UTERUS OR PROSTATE/TESTICLES

RIGHT KIDNEY:

Sagittal views

- Medial (poles symmetrical)
- Medial (renal sinus/pelvis)
- Mid (with & w/o measurement)
- Lateral
- Comparison view (split screen if needed) of liver and kidney

Transverse views

- Cranial pole
- Mid (renal sinus/pelvis)
- Caudal pole

RIGHT ADRENAL GLAND: Sagittal view with and without measurements

RIGHT OVARY

PANCREAS:

- Right limb (RK/duodenum)
- Body (GB/PV/stomach)
- Left limb (stomach/spleen/LK)

DUODENUM

STOMACH:

- Ventral right (pylorus)
- Midline (antrum/midbody)
- Dorsal left (fundus)
- Measure wall thickness in these images
- Observe for 3 minutes to evaluate peristalsis

MIDABDOMEN:

- Moving cranial to caudal, then medial to lateral, grid approach
- Jejunum
- Ileum (cats only)
- Colon
- Measure wall thickness
- Observe for 3 minutes to evaluate peristalsis