MRI
Magnetic Resonance Imaging

An MRI machine uses a powerful magnet to align some of the molecules in the body and form an image by reading this alignment. The great advantage of this technique is that it allows excellent visualization of the soft tissues of the body – much better than x-rays or CT scans which are better for bones.

The main area in which we use this powerful technique is in the investigation of chronic and relapsing ear disease, as it allows us to determine if the middle contains fluid or tissue. Examining different types of scans and even using contrast dyes may then allow us to determine if the tissue is a tumour or is inflammatory without needing more invasive sampling techniques. If a tumour is present it also allows us to determine the extent of invasion into surrounding tissue and thus determine and direct potential surgical exploration. If we identify a tumour we may elect to collect a biopsy to confirm the tumour type for prognosis.

MRI is a non-invasive, painless procedure that requires no “recovery time” or special after care and does not expose your pet to any radiation, unlike x-rays or CT scanning.