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 video clips 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.

(AO=Aorta; CVC=Caudal vena cava; GB=Gallbladder; HV=Hepatic vein; LK=Left kidney; PV=Portal vein; RK=Right kidney)

Image count:

10  ☐ LIVER:
    Sagittal views
    □ Right lateral, cranial (right liver, diaphragm)
    □ Right lateral, caudal (caudate lobe, RK)
    □ Right lateral, more toward midline (GB, diaphragm)
    □ Midline (extrahepatic bile duct, PV, CVC)
    □ Midline to left lateral (long axis AO, 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)

9  ☐ SPLEEN:
    Sagittal and transverse views
    □ Splenic head (dorsal spleen) (from left ventral abdomen or intercostal space 11-12)
    □ Cranial body, caudal body
    □ Splenic tail (ventral spleen)
    □ Mid body (hilus)

8  ☐ LEFT KIDNEY:
    Sagittal views
    □ Medial (poles symmetrical)
    □ Medial (renal sinus/pelvis)
    □ Mid (with & w/o measurement)
    □ Lateral
    □ Comparison view of liver and spleen

    Transverse views
    □ Cranial pole
    □ Mid (renal sinus/pelvis)
    □ Caudal pole

2  ☐ LEFT ADRENAL GLAND: Sagittal view with and without measurements

1  ☐ LEFT OVARY

6  ☐ 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)

2  ☐ SUBLUMBAR REGION:
    □ Blood vessels/lymph nodes dorsal to bladder (sagittal and transverse)

2  ☐ UTERUS OR PROSTATE/TESTICLES

8  ☐ RIGHT KIDNEY:
    Sagittal views
    □ Medial (poles symmetrical)
    □ Medial (renal sinus/pelvis)
    □ Mid (with & w/o measurement)
    □ Lateral
    □ Comparison view of liver and kidney

    Transverse views
    □ Cranial pole
    □ Mid (renal sinus/pelvis)
    □ Caudal pole

2  ☐ RIGHT ADRENAL GLAND: Sagittal view with and without measurements

1  ☐ RIGHT OVARY

3  ☐ PANCREAS:
    □ Right limb (RK/duodenum)
    □ Midline (antrum/midbody)
    □ Lateral (left fundus)

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

3  ☐ MIDABDOMEN:
    □ Moving cranial to caudal, then medial to lateral, grid approach
    □ Jejunum
    □ ileocolic junction (cats only)
    □ Colon

61 TOTAL

updated 12/27/2006