

# TELERADIOLOGY IN PRACTICE

## Equidistant between Miami and Key Largo, a two-doctor practice serves a large community.

Just a few weeks beyond his one-year anniversary at English Plaza Animal Hospital, Dr. Juan Soto talked about his clients, his community and using Patterson Teleradiology (PTR) powered by Vetology AI. Practice manager, Jermaine Young, joined him; Young's been with the practice two years.

Young said, "We're a small animal practice. We see dogs, cats, you know, occasional rabbits and ferrets. We're located in Homestead, Florida. It's a pretty interesting practice between the clients and the staff as well. There are lots of characters here. The clients in the community tend to take their pets in less for preventive medicine and more for acute issues."

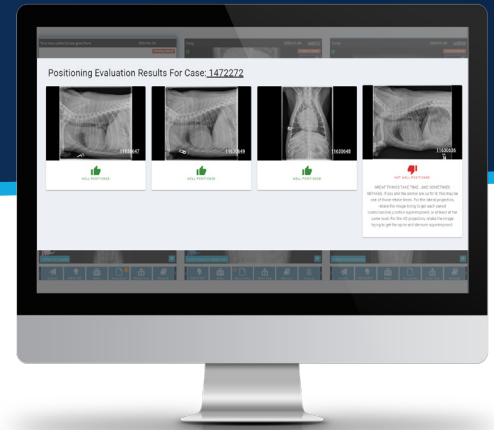
Dr. Soto agreed. "Though we encourage prevention, the majority of the cases are sick animals like wounds, illness, coughing – anything. And then your occasional annuals and vaccines. But the majority of the patients are sick. It's just a limitation of the surroundings, not a problem as a hospital because we can do it, we're capable of it. It's more just location."

## Using AI and Image Match for acute care

Dr. Soto runs X-ray images through the artificial intelligence service of Patterson Teleradiology. Within five minutes, he gets results and a report returned, which helps him confirm a diagnosis and move on quickly with treatment.

"I have been using it ever since I got here, and it has been wonderful for me. I like it a lot because it gives me a second perspective apart from myself. It basically confirms diagnoses for me. I know that it's an artificial intelligence, so it's not a hundred percent accurate, but the same can be said for a person. But I use it to double-check if I missed anything and just see if there was really something else wrong there. I really depend more on it to give me a second view. I get an actual report from the AI and it's very professional and clean. I edit that to my convenience and there you go – it's in the medical notes and looks good."

Dr. Soto and his colleague bounce diagnostic questions off one another. Sometimes, there is only one doctor on staff, though. That's when Dr. Soto uses AI as well as Image Match, included with a PTR powered by Vetology AI subscription. Just upload the image and compare it to others in the database. The Vetology AI software will do an apples-to-apples comparison. So, if your image is of a Chihuahua, it will not try to match against a Great Dane.



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” – Dr. Soto



Powered by Vetology

## Sending images to a live radiologist for advanced care

Dr. Soto also uses the third option available within PTR and the Vetology AI software: sending it directly to a radiologist. The Vetology radiologist will send a report and treatment recommendations, and is available for follow-up questions, too.

“The radiology option has been very good. It gets the job done and radiologist confirmed. Sometimes when I’m questioning something about the report, I touch base with them to see if I understood properly the report and just to double-check.”

Dr. Soto gave an example of a patient he had seen just the previous week. “I had a dog that had been chronically vomiting for eight days. And basically, I told them, ‘Let’s do X-rays.’ And what I saw wasn’t very clear. The artificial intelligence helped, but it wasn’t as good. So I needed more proof if there was a possible foreign body because that means a surgery. So that’s one of those occasions where I need to confirm with a specialist as soon as possible.”

### “It’s all through Vetology and it’s all pretty straightforward.”

“AI and the Image Match are very good with things that are thoracic and abdominal, but it’s not as accurate for issues like orthopedics, because that is anatomically very complicated by itself.” That’s when Dr. Soto uses the same Vetology AI software, and with a few more clicks, sends it along for a radiologist’s read and report.

“Speaking from experience, I feel like as a veterinarian you’re not very comfortable reading radiographs, and you just want the specialist to take a look at it. That is always a good reason to do it. For example, you have this heart failure versus possible asthma, and you want to confirm whether to give steroids or diuretics. That really can be a life-or-death situation depending on the treatment you’re using. So I always recommend it for those kinds of things,” Dr. Soto said.

Other reasons to send images through to a radiologist are if you suspect ingestion of a foreign body, metastasis and any issues with the spine.

“For foreign bodies, it’s always good to get a second opinion because foreign bodies are not black and white – sometimes, they’re hard to see in X-rays and in general. When there’s not a clear answer, that’s when I feel like, as a veterinarian, it’s always good to just send it out to get that second opinion.”

## About Patterson Teleradiology: Radiologist reports within 2 hours

Send any case to our board-certified radiologists for a full diagnostic report and recommendations within a day. It’s just a few more clicks within the Vetology AI software to submit a case. Our radiologists can provide a diagnosis and report for canine, feline, equine, bovine, ovine and caprine images.

- Reports for X-rays, CT scans and ultrasound images are returned within 24 hours
- CT cone beam and CT interpretation reports are returned within 48 hours
- 2-hour average turnaround time on STAT reads; guaranteed in six

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