Radiology

Always read the manual on your radiology machine to make sure that proper care is maintained. You do not want a buildup of dust. There are a number of different types of cassettes and depending on the type of screen inside the cassette, there are certain cleaning chemicals that cannot be used. As with the machine itself, always find out from the manufacturer what the proper maintenance of the cassette should be and what cleaning solution is recommended. If cassettes are dropped or if fluid leaks into the cassette, it can be damaged. When taking radiographs of large animals, you run the risk of the cassette being stepped on. The outside of the cassettes should be cleaned monthly using a mild soap and water. When you clean the inside, allow them to stand open to completely dry before placing a piece of film inside. If dirt or fluid gets inside the cassette, it can show up on the x-ray as an artifact and make reading the results confusing. When handling film, always carry it by the edges. When you are loading a cassette, take one piece of film out of the box, close the box and put it back where it goes, then close the cassette. You do this in this order so that if someone accidentally opened the door, only the one piece of film in the cassette would be ruined instead of the entire box. Artifacts are anything that will appear on the x-ray that will decrease the quality of the radiograph. You should take special care to not scratch any of the film as this will show up on the x-ray. Other common things that can cause artifacts include folds in the film, dirty cassettes, static electricity, fingernail marks and/or fingerprints, and contrast media such as barium.
Ultrasound

As with the radiology machine, always read the manual for the proper cleaning instructions for your ultrasound machine. With many machines, alcohol can be used to clean the gel off of the transducer after each use. Proper maintenance of the entire machine is just as important as it is with other equipment in the clinic. These machines are expensive, so you must give them adequate care.

References