



ENDO VET
R E F E R R A L S

Laparoscopic Liver Lobectomy

Introduction:

At EndoVet Referrals, we are committed to providing advanced surgical options for your pet. This guide explains laparoscopic liver lobectomy, why it may be recommended, how to prepare, and what to expect during and after the procedure. If you have further questions, our team is always happy to help.

What is a Laparoscopic Liver Lobectomy?

Laparoscopic liver lobectomy is a minimally invasive surgical procedure to remove one or more lobes of the liver. This advanced technique allows for the precise removal of diseased or damaged liver tissue while minimising discomfort and recovery time for your pet.

This procedure offers:

- Reduced pain and discomfort.
- Faster recovery times.
- Smaller surgical scars.
- Enhanced precision in treating liver conditions.

Indications for a Laparoscopic Liver Lobectomy?

Laparoscopic liver lobectomy may be recommended for pets diagnosed with:

- Liver tumours or masses.
- Severe trauma or damage to the liver.
- Liver abscesses or infections.
- Congenital abnormalities or cysts in the liver.

This procedure helps improve your pet's overall health by addressing the underlying liver condition effectively and safely.

What are the alternatives?

The primary alternative is an open liver lobectomy, which involves a larger abdominal incision and more handling of surrounding tissues. While effective, the traditional method typically results in greater postoperative discomfort, longer recovery times, and a higher risk of complications compared to the minimally invasive laparoscopic technique.

What are the risks?

Anaesthetic Risks

- Reactions to sedation or anaesthesia, particularly in pets with pre-existing conditions such as heart, liver, or kidney disease.

Procedure-related Risks

- Bleeding: The liver is highly vascular, so bleeding may occur but is usually controlled during the procedure.
- Infections or Wound Complications: Rarely, the surgical sites may become infected or irritated.
- Conversion to Open Surgery: In some cases, if complications arise during the procedure, a traditional open surgery may be required.

Our experienced team takes every precaution to minimise these risks and ensure a successful outcome.

Laparoscopic Liver Lobectomy

Pre-Operative Consultation

- Pre-clinical examination of your pet.
- Procedure discussion with a senior surgeon.
- For long-distance clients, a clinical examination may be carried out by your local vet and a phone consultation will be arranged with one of our senior surgeons prior to surgery.
- Medical Review: Please inform us of all your pet's medications, including over-the-counter treatments. Certain drugs, like steroids or NSAIDs, may need to be paused, and special instructions apply for pets with conditions like diabetes or heart disease.

1

Admission & Preparation

- Withhold food for 6–12 hours before the procedure.
- Water: Restrict water for 2–4 hours prior to arrival.
- Ensure your pet has had the opportunity to toilet before arriving at the clinic.
- A team member will review the procedure with you, answer any questions, and obtain your consent.
- Your pet will undergo a clinical examination, and blood tests or imaging (e.g., ultrasound or CT scan) may be performed to assess the liver and confirm the diagnosis.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and medications if needed.

2

Laparoscopic Liver Lobectomy

- Under anaesthesia, the laparoscope and surgical instruments are inserted through small incisions in the abdomen.
- The affected portion of the liver is carefully detached from surrounding tissues and blood vessels.
- The liver lobe is removed through one of the incisions, which are then closed with absorbable sutures or surgical glue.

The procedure typically takes 60–90 minutes, depending on the complexity of the case.

3

Recovery & Monitoring

- Your pet will be closely monitored until they recover from anaesthesia.
- A small, bland meal will be offered before discharge.
- Most pets experience minimal discomfort due to the small incisions, and additional pain relief will be provided if needed.

4

Home Recovery

- Keep your pet calm and indoors (or on a lead for dogs) for 24–48 hours after surgery.
- Restrict exercise and vigorous activity for 10–14 days to allow the surgical sites to heal.
- Monitor the incision sites daily to ensure they remain clean, dry, and undisturbed.

5

Next Steps & Follow Up

- Most pets recover fully within a day or two and require no further treatment.
- A follow-up appointment will be scheduled to ensure proper healing and monitor for any complications.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Swelling, redness, or discharge at the incision sites.
- Vomiting, lethargy, or loss of appetite.
- Pale gums, difficulty breathing, or other unusual symptoms.

Contact Us

To Refer a routine case, please use the referral form on our website.

Call:
01543 373 033

Email:
Referrals@endovetclinic.co.uk

Our Services

To see our full list of services, visit:
www.veterinaryendoscopy.co.uk

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