



ENDOVET

R E F L E R R A L S

Vaginoscopy

Introduction:

At EndoVet Referrals, we aim to provide the highest standard of care for your pet. This guide explains vaginoscopy, 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 here to help.

What is a Vaginoscopy?

Vaginoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure used to examine your pet's vaginal and vulvar tissues. A small, rigid or flexible endoscope equipped with a camera and light is inserted into the vaginal canal to evaluate its structure and detect any abnormalities.

This procedure allows for both diagnostic assessments and treatments while minimising discomfort for your pet.

It can also assist in diagnosing conditions such as vaginitis, foreign body presence, strictures, or congenital abnormalities.

Indications for a Vaginoscopy?

Vaginoscopy may be recommended to investigate:

- Vaginal discharge or bleeding.
- Difficulty urinating or frequent urination.
- Persistent licking of the genital area.
- Suspected vaginal or vulvar masses, polyps, or infections.
- Abnormalities related to heat cycles or infertility issues.

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

- Minor Bleeding: Biopsy sites or tissue sampling may cause minimal bleeding, which usually resolves quickly.
- Rare Complications: Rarely, the endoscope may cause minor irritation or injury to the vaginal tissues, requiring additional care.

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

Vaginoscopy Procedure

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.
- Please make sure your pet has had the opportunity to go to the toilet before arriving at the clinic.
- A team member will review the procedure with you and obtain your consent.
- Your pet will have a clinical examination, and blood tests may be performed to ensure they are healthy enough for anaesthesia.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and emergency medications if needed.

2

Vaginoscopy

- Your pet will be anaesthetised to ensure comfort and stillness during the procedure.
- The endoscope is carefully inserted into the vaginal canal, allowing the veterinary surgeon to assess the tissues for abnormalities.
- If necessary, tissue biopsies or swabs will be taken for laboratory analysis.
- Foreign objects, masses, or strictures may be treated or removed during the procedure.

The procedure typically takes 15–30 minutes but may vary depending on the complexity of the case.

3

Recovery & Monitoring

- Your pet will be monitored closely after anaesthesia to ensure a smooth recovery.
- A small, bland meal will be offered before discharge.

4

Home Recovery

- Keep your pet calm and indoors (or on a lead for dogs) for 24 hours after the procedure.
- Some mild discharge or slight discomfort is normal for 24–48 hours but should resolve on its own.

5

Next Steps & Follow Up

- Test results (e.g., biopsy or fluid analysis) are typically available within 7–10 days, and we will contact you to discuss the findings.
- Follow-up appointments will be scheduled to assess your pet's progress or provide further treatment if necessary.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Persistent or heavy discharge.
- Signs of discomfort, swelling, or redness.
- Lethargy, vomiting, or loss of appetite.

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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