



VETEMIS
R E F E R R A L S

Bronchoscopy

Introduction:

At Vetemis Referrals, we are committed to providing advanced diagnostics and treatments for your pet. This guide explains bronchoscopy, 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 Bronchoscopy?

Bronchoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure that allows our veterinary team to directly examine your pet's airways, including the trachea, bronchi, and smaller bronchioles. A small flexible endoscope equipped with a camera and light is inserted through the mouth and into the respiratory tract to evaluate any abnormalities.

This procedure helps diagnose and treat conditions affecting the airways, offering a safer and more precise alternative to exploratory surgery.

Indications for a Bronchoscopy?

Bronchoscopy is recommended for pets experiencing respiratory symptoms, including:

- Persistent coughing or wheezing.
- Difficulty breathing or noisy breathing.
- Unexplained mucus, blood, or discharge from the airways.
- Suspected airway obstructions or tumours.

The procedure can also be used to collect tissue samples (biopsies) or perform therapeutic interventions.

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: Small amounts of bleeding may occur during sample collection or tissue removal but usually resolve quickly.
- Airway Spasms: Reflexive airway spasms (bronchospasms) may occur but are typically managed with medication.
- Rare Complications: In very rare cases, the bronchoscope may cause injury to the airway, requiring additional intervention.

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

Bronchoscopy 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 consent form with you and answer any questions.
- Your pet will undergo a full clinical examination, and blood tests may be recommended to assess their overall health.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and medications as needed.

2

Bronchoscopy

- Your pet will be anaesthetised to ensure they remain still and comfortable during the procedure.
- The bronchoscope is carefully inserted into the airway to assess the trachea, bronchi, and bronchioles.
- Depending on the findings, the veterinarian may:
 - Collect tissue or fluid samples for laboratory analysis.
 - Remove foreign objects or obstructions.
 - Treat abnormalities like polyps or strictures.

The procedure typically takes 15–30 minutes but may vary depending on the findings and treatments performed.

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.
- Slight coughing or mild throat irritation is normal for 24–48 hours.

4

Home Recovery

- Keep your pet calm and indoors (or on a lead for dogs) for 24 hours after the procedure.
- Follow any medication instructions provided to alleviate discomfort or inflammation.

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 may be scheduled to assess your pet's progress or provide further treatment if necessary.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us if you notice:

- Difficulty breathing or rapid breathing.
- Persistent coughing or gagging.
- Unusual swelling or discharge from the mouth or nose.

Contact Us

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

Call:
01543 373 033

Email:
Referrals@vetemis.co.uk

Our Services

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

Vetemis Referrals

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