



**VETEMIS**  
R E F E R R A L S

# Diagnostic Laparoscopy

# Introduction:

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At Vetemis Referrals, we are proud to offer advanced diagnostic procedures, such as diagnostic laparoscopy, to better understand your pet's health. This guide will explain what diagnostic laparoscopy is, why it may be necessary, how to prepare, and what to expect during and after the procedure. If you have any further questions, our team is here to assist.

## What is a Diagnostic Laparoscopy?

Diagnostic laparoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure that allows the veterinarian to examine the internal organs, typically within the abdominal cavity, using a laparoscope (a camera-equipped endoscope).

It is used to investigate symptoms that may not be easily diagnosed through external examination, blood tests, or imaging alone. Small incisions are made, and the laparoscope is inserted to provide real-time images of the internal organs, helping the veterinary team identify potential problems such as inflammation, tumors, infections, or other abnormalities.

## Indications for Diagnostic Laparoscopy?

Diagnostic laparoscopy may be recommended for a variety of reasons, including:

- Unexplained abdominal pain or discomfort
- Suspicious masses or growths
- Infections or inflammation in the abdomen
- Liver, kidney, or pancreatic issues
- Chronic digestive or metabolic problems

This procedure helps identify internal issues and provides a clearer diagnosis for better treatment planning.

## What are the alternatives?

Traditional diagnostic methods include imaging techniques like ultrasound or CT scans. However, these methods may not always provide a complete picture, especially for small lesions or internal conditions. In some cases, an exploratory open surgery may be required if laparoscopy cannot obtain sufficient information. Diagnostic laparoscopy is less invasive, involves smaller incisions, and allows for faster recovery compared to open surgery.

## 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: There may be minor bleeding, but it is typically controlled during the procedure.
- Infections or Wound Complications: Rarely, the incisions may become infected or irritated.
- Conversion to Open Surgery: In some cases, if complications arise during the procedure or further exploration is needed, the procedure may be converted to a traditional open surgery.

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

# Diagnostic Laparoscopy 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.

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## Admission & Preparation

- Withhold food for 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, answer any questions, and obtain your consent.
- A clinical examination will be performed on your pet, along with any necessary imaging (e.g., ultrasound or blood tests) to assess the areas of concern.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and medications if needed.

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## Diagnostic Laparoscopy

- Under anaesthesia, a laparoscope and small surgical instruments will be inserted through small incisions in your pet's abdomen.
- The veterinarian will examine the internal organs and may take biopsies or collect samples if necessary for further diagnostic testing.
- The laparoscope provides real-time images of the organs, helping the veterinary team make informed decisions.
- The small incisions are then closed with absorbable sutures or surgical glue.

Diagnostic laparoscopy typically takes 30–60 minutes, depending on the complexity of the examination.

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## 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.

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## Home Recovery

- Keep your pet calm and indoors (or on a lead for dogs) for 24–48 hours after the procedure.
- Restrict exercise and vigorous activity for 7–10 days to allow the incisions to heal.
- Monitor the incision sites daily to ensure they remain clean, dry, and undisturbed.

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## Next Steps & Follow Up

- Most pets recover fully within a few days to a week.
- A follow-up appointment will be scheduled to assess the incision sites and monitor for any complications.
- If biopsies or tissue samples were taken during the procedure, the results will typically take a few days to process. We will contact you once the results are available to discuss the findings and any further treatment that may be required.

# Further information

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## 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@vetemis.co.uk](mailto:Referrals@vetemis.co.uk)

## Our Services

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To see our full list of services, visit:  
[www.veterinaryendoscopy.co.uk](http://www.veterinaryendoscopy.co.uk)

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