



VETEMIS

R E F E R R A L S

Laparoscopic Gastropexy

Introduction:

At Vetemis Referrals, we are proud to offer advanced procedures like laparoscopic gastropexy to help safeguard your pet's health. This guide explains the procedure, why it may be recommended, how to prepare, and what to expect during and after surgery. If you have further questions, our team is always here to help.

What is a Laparoscopic Gastropexy?

Laparoscopic gastropexy is a minimally invasive surgical procedure used to prevent gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV), commonly known as "bloat" or "stomach torsion." GDV is a life-threatening condition in which the stomach fills with gas, twists, and blocks blood flow.

During the procedure, the stomach is permanently attached to the abdominal wall using small surgical instruments and a laparoscope (a camera-equipped endoscope). This stabilization prevents the stomach from twisting in the future.

Laparoscopic gastropexy is often recommended for large or deep-chested dog breeds, which are at higher risk of GDV.

Indications for a Laparoscopic Gastropexy?

This procedure may be recommended for:

- High-risk breeds: Great Danes, German Shepherds, Standard Poodles, and other large or deep-chested dogs.
- Dogs with a family history of GDV.
- Dogs undergoing another laparoscopic procedure, such as spaying or neutering, to reduce surgical risks and recovery time.

The surgery is preventative and greatly reduces the likelihood of life-threatening GDV, which often requires emergency intervention.

What are the alternatives?

The primary alternative is an open gastropexy, or a laparoscopic-assisted Gastropexy which involves a larger incision and more tissue handling. While effective, open surgery typically results in a longer recovery time, more postoperative pain, and a higher risk of complications compared to the minimally invasive laparoscopic approach.

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: Minor bleeding at the surgical site may occur but is usually controlled easily.
- Organ Puncture (Rare): Instruments may inadvertently injure surrounding organs, requiring additional intervention.
- Infections or Wound Complications: Rarely, the surgical sites may become infected or irritated.

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

Laparoscopic Gastropexy 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, answer any questions, and obtain your consent.
- Your pet will undergo a full clinical examination, and blood tests may be performed to ensure they are fit for anaesthesia.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and medications as needed.

2

Laparoscopic Gastropexy

- Under anaesthesia, the laparoscope and surgical instruments are inserted through small incisions in your pet's abdomen.
- The stomach is carefully attached to the abdominal wall using sutures or staples to prevent future twisting.
- The incisions are closed with absorbable sutures or surgical glue, and a small plaster may be applied to protect the sites.

The procedure typically takes 30–60 minutes, depending on your pet's size and any concurrent procedures (e.g., spaying or neutering).

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 hours after surgery.
- Restrict exercise and vigorous activity for 7–10 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 week and require no further treatment.
- Follow-up appointments are scheduled to ensure proper healing.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Swelling, redness, or discharge at the incision sites.
- Vomiting, loss of appetite, or lethargy.
- 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

Our Services

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

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