



VETEMIS

R E F E R R A L S

Gastroscopy

Introduction:

At Vetemis Referrals, we are committed to providing advanced diagnostic and surgical options for your pet. This guide explains gastroscopy, 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 Gastroscopy?

Gastroscopy is a minimally invasive procedure that allows our veterinary team to examine and treat conditions affecting your pet's oesophagus, stomach, and upper small intestine. Using a small camera (endoscope) and specialised instruments, the procedure is performed through the mouth, offering a safer and less painful alternative to traditional exploratory surgery.

This technique provides:

- Precise diagnosis of gastrointestinal conditions.
- Reduced pain and discomfort.
- Faster recovery times.

Indications for Gastroscopy?

Gastroscopy may be recommended for pets experiencing gastrointestinal issues such as:

- Chronic vomiting or regurgitation.
- Difficulty swallowing or suspected foreign body ingestion.
- Persistent abdominal pain or bloating.
- Unexplained weight loss.
- Suspected ulcers, tumours, or inflammation in the upper gastrointestinal tract.

This procedure enables accurate diagnosis and targeted treatment to improve your pet's digestive health.

What are the risks?

Anaesthetic Risks

- Reactions to Sedation: Pets with underlying conditions (e.g., heart, lung, kidney, or liver issues) may have a higher risk of complications. We take steps to assess and prepare your pet beforehand.

Procedure-related Risks

- Minor Bleeding: Small amounts of bleeding may occur during sample collection or tissue removal but usually resolve quickly.
- Perforation: In very rare cases, the endoscope may cause a tear in the gastrointestinal tract, requiring additional intervention.

Our experienced team takes every precaution to ensure your pet's safety and minimise these risks.

Gastrosocopy 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.
- Ensure your pet has had the opportunity to 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

Gastrosocopy Procedure

- Your pet will be anaesthetised to ensure they remain still and comfortable during the procedure.
- The endoscope is carefully inserted through the mouth and guided into the gastrointestinal tract.
- Depending on the findings, the veterinarian may:
 - Remove foreign objects or obstructions.
 - Collect tissue samples (biopsies) for laboratory analysis.
 - Treat abnormalities such as ulcers or polyps.

The procedure typically takes 20–40 minutes, but this may vary depending on the complexity of the case.

3

Recovery & Monitoring

- Your pet will be monitored until they recover from anaesthesia.
- A bland meal will be offered before discharge.
- Temporary mild throat irritation or slight changes in appetite are normal for 24–48 hours.

4

Home Recovery

- Keep your pet calm and restrict activity for 24 hours after the procedure.
- Follow any dietary recommendations provided by the veterinarian.
- Administer any prescribed medications as instructed.

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 discuss biopsy results or monitor recovery if needed.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us if you notice:

- Difficulty swallowing or persistent vomiting.
- Signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, or discharge from the mouth.
- Unusual lethargy 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@vetemis.co.uk

Our Services

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

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