



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

# Laparoscopic Biopsy

# Introduction:

At Vetemis Referrals, we offer laparoscopic biopsy as a minimally invasive option to obtain tissue samples for diagnosis. This guide will explain the procedure, why it may be necessary, how to prepare, and what to expect during and after surgery. If you have any questions, our team is here to assist.

## What is a Laparoscopic Biopsy?

A laparoscopic biopsy is a minimally invasive procedure used to obtain tissue samples (biopsies) from internal organs using a laparoscope (a camera-equipped endoscope).

The laparoscope is inserted through small incisions in the abdomen, allowing the veterinarian to examine internal organs and collect samples for laboratory analysis.

This procedure is often recommended when there are concerns about internal growths, tumours, or other abnormalities that cannot be fully diagnosed through non-invasive methods.

## Indications for Laparoscopic Biopsy?

A laparoscopic biopsy may be recommended if your pet is showing symptoms that suggest the presence of:

- **Suspicious Masses or Tumors:** To determine if abnormal growths are benign or malignant.
- **Chronic Inflammation or Infection:** To investigate the cause of unexplained pain, lethargy, or other symptoms that may point to an internal issue.
- **Liver, Kidney, or Pancreatic Disorders:** To assess damage or disease in these organs.
- **Digestive or Metabolic Problems:** To evaluate conditions affecting the gastrointestinal system or metabolism.

## What are the alternatives?

Alternatives to laparoscopic biopsy include fine needle aspiration (FNA), which uses a needle to collect tissue samples, or traditional surgical biopsy. While FNA is less invasive, it may not always provide a sufficient sample for accurate diagnosis. Open surgical biopsy involves larger incisions and more tissue handling, which may result in a longer recovery time. Laparoscopic biopsy, being minimally invasive, offers quicker recovery and less discomfort for your pet.

A biopsy helps provide a clear diagnosis and guide treatment options based on the findings.

## 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 incision sites may become infected or irritated.
- **Incomplete or Inconclusive Biopsy Samples:** In some cases, the biopsy sample may not provide enough information, and further procedures may be needed.

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

# Laparoscopic Biopsy

## 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 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 clinical examination, and any necessary imaging (e.g., ultrasound, X-rays, or blood tests) will be performed to locate the area of concern.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and any necessary medications.

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## Laparoscopic Biopsy

- Under general anaesthesia, a small incision will be made, and a laparoscope will be inserted into the abdomen.
- The veterinarian will examine the internal organs and use specialised instruments to collect tissue samples.
- The samples will be sent to a laboratory for analysis, and the incision will be closed with absorbable sutures or surgical glue.

The procedure typically takes 30–60 minutes, depending on the complexity of the case.

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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 surgery.
- Restrict exercise and vigorous activity for 7–10 days to allow the surgical site to heal.
- Monitor the incision site daily for any swelling, redness, or discharge.

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## Next Steps & Follow Up

- Most pets recover fully within a few days to a week.
- A follow-up appointment may be scheduled to assess healing and monitor for any complications.
- If biopsy results were obtained, they typically take a few days to process. We will contact you with the results and discuss the next steps in your pet's treatment plan.

# Further information

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## When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Swelling, redness, or discharge at the incision site.
- Vomiting, lethargy, or loss of appetite.
- Pale gums, difficulty breathing, or any 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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Vetemis Referrals

Lichfield Road, Brownhills, Walsall  
WS8 6LS

01543 373 033



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