



VETEMIS
R E F E R R A L S

Laparoscopic Nephrectomy

Introduction:

At Vetemis Referrals, we are committed to providing advanced surgical options to improve your pet's health. This guide explains nephrectomy, why it may be necessary, how to prepare, and what to expect during and after surgery. Our team is always available to answer any questions.

What is a Laparoscopic Nephrectomy?

Nephrectomy is a surgical procedure to remove one of your pet's kidneys. This may be necessary if a kidney is severely damaged, diseased, or affected by cancer. The remaining kidney typically takes over its function, allowing your pet to continue leading a healthy life.

Indications for Diagnostic Laparoscopy?

A nephrectomy may be recommended for conditions such as:

- Kidney Tumours – Masses that may be malignant or causing discomfort.
- Severe Kidney Infection (Pyelonephritis) – Chronic or severe infections that do not respond to treatment.
- Trauma – Injury that causes irreversible kidney damage.
- Hydronephrosis – A blocked or swollen kidney that is no longer functioning properly.
- Polycystic Kidney Disease – A condition causing multiple cysts in the kidneys.

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

What are the alternatives?

In some cases, kidney infections or diseases can be managed with medication and supportive care rather than surgery. If complete removal of the kidney is not necessary, a partial nephrectomy may be an option, allowing only the affected portion to be removed. Additionally, certain conditions may be treated with minimally invasive procedures, such as stent placement for kidney stones, to improve kidney function without the need for major surgery. Your veterinarian will assess the best course of action based on your pet's specific condition.

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 – Controlled during surgery but a rare possibility post-operatively.
- Infection – The incision site must be monitored for signs of infection.
- Kidney Function Changes – The remaining kidney must compensate, which is usually well tolerated in healthy pets.

Our experienced team takes every precaution to minimise risks and ensure a safe procedure.

Laparoscopic Nephrectomy 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 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.

2

Laparoscopic Nephrectomy

- Under general anaesthesia, an incision is made in the abdomen to access the affected kidney.
- The kidney is carefully separated from surrounding tissues, including blood vessels, the ureter, and other connected structures.
- Special care is taken to control any bleeding during the procedure.
- Once fully detached, the kidney is removed from the body through the incision.
- The surgical team ensures all tissues are properly repositioned before closing the incision with sutures or surgical glue.

The procedure typically takes 60–90 minutes, depending on the complexity and location of the kidney, as well as your pet's overall health.

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 24–48 hours.
- Restrict activity for 10–14 days to allow healing.
- Monitor the incision site daily for redness, swelling, or discharge.
- Provide fresh water and encourage hydration to support kidney function.

5

Next Steps & Follow Up

- Most pets recover fully within a few weeks.
- Follow-up appointments may be scheduled to check the incision site and monitor kidney function with blood tests.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Vomiting, lethargy, or loss of appetite.
- Swelling, redness, or discharge at the incision site.
- Changes in urination, such as increased frequency or difficulty passing urine.
- 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

Our Services

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

Vetemis Referrals

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