



VETEMIS
R E F E R R A L S

Rhinoscopy

Introduction

At Vetemis Referrals, we are committed to providing advanced diagnostics and treatments for your pet. This guide explains Rhinoscopy, 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 Rhinoscopy?

Rhinoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure used to examine your pet's nasal cavities and the back of the nose (nasopharynx). In some cases, the procedure can be extended to include the frontal sinuses, referred to as sinusoscopy.

The procedure involves using a small endoscope (rigid or flexible) with a camera and light source to visualise and assess the nasal passages. Depending on the area being examined:

- A rigid endoscope is inserted into each nostril to view the nasal cavities.
- A flexible endoscope can be manoeuvred through the mouth and positioned to examine the nasopharynx (back of the nose).

Biopsy samples may also be taken during the procedure for laboratory analysis, helping to distinguish between cancerous and inflammatory conditions or to identify bacterial or fungal infections.

Indications for a Rhinoscopy?

Rhinoscopy can be performed for both diagnostic and treatment purposes:

Diagnostics to investigate:

- Persistent or unexplained sneezing or reverse sneezing.
- Chronic nasal discharge (clear, bloody, or mucus-like).
- Noisy breathing or snoring.
- Unexplained nosebleeds (epistaxis).

Treatment applications:

- Removal of foreign objects like grass seeds or sticks.
- Elimination of fungal plaques (e.g., aspergillosis) or nasal polyps.
- Tumour reduction using specialized instruments.
- Repair of nasal tissue damaged by chronic infections.
- Dilation of narrowed areas in the nasal passages.
- Flushing of the nasal or sinus cavities for infections or inflammation.

What are the risks?

Anaesthetic Risks

- Reactions to sedation or anaesthesia, particularly in pets with pre-existing conditions such as heart, liver, or kidney, (thyroid) disease.

Procedure-related Risks

- Bleeding: Minor bleeding from biopsy sites or due to instrumentation in the nasal cavity is common but usually resolves quickly.
- Fluid Inhalation: Rarely, fluid used during the procedure may enter the airway. Protective measures, such as an endotracheal tube and active suctioning, are used to prevent this.

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

Rhinoscopy 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

Rhinoscopy Procedure

- Under general anaesthesia, a rhinoscope is carefully inserted into the nasal passages or through the mouth.
- The veterinary surgeon may:
 - Assess the nasal passages and nasopharynx.
 - Take biopsy samples.
 - Perform treatments, such as removing foreign bodies or flushing the nasal cavity.

The procedure typically takes 10–30 minutes but may vary depending on the findings and treatments performed.

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.

5

Next Steps & Follow Up

- Test results (e.g., biopsy or fluid analysis) are typically available within 7–10 days, and we will contact you to discuss the findings.
- Follow-up appointments may be scheduled to assess your pet's progress or provide further treatment if necessary.

4

Home Recovery

- Keep your pet calm and indoors (or on a lead for dogs) for 24 hours after the procedure.
- Mild sneezing or small amounts of blood-tinged fluid may occur; this is typically caused by residual irrigation fluid.
- You may be provided with medications to reduce inflammation or manage any discomfort.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

- Persistent or heavy nose bleeds.
- Unusual swelling or discharge.
- Difficulty breathing or severe sneezing.

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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