



VETEMIS
R E F E R R A L S

Laparoscopic Splenectomy



Introduction:

At Vetemis Referrals, we are committed to offering advanced surgical options like laparoscopic splenectomy to support your pet's health and comfort. This guide explains the procedure, why it may be necessary, 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 Splenectomy?

Laparoscopic splenectomy is a minimally invasive surgical procedure used to remove the spleen. The spleen may need to be removed if it is diseased, damaged, or contributing to health complications.

Using a laparoscope (a camera-equipped endoscope) and small surgical instruments, the spleen is carefully detached and removed through small incisions. This method reduces postoperative pain, minimizes tissue trauma, and shortens recovery time compared to traditional open surgery.

Indications for a Laparoscopic Splenectomy?

Laparoscopic splenectomy is recommended for conditions such as:

- Splenic Tumours: Suspicious masses or growths that may be benign or malignant.
- Ruptured Spleen: Trauma or disease-causing internal bleeding.
- Splenic Torsion: A twisted spleen, which can restrict blood flow and damage tissues.
- Chronic Hematologic Disorders: Conditions where the spleen is destroying healthy red blood cells or platelets.

What are the alternatives?

The primary alternative is an open splenectomy, which involves a larger abdominal incision and more tissue handling. While effective, the traditional method typically results in greater postoperative discomfort, longer recovery times, and a higher risk of complications compared to the minimally invasive laparoscopic technique.

Removing the spleen can alleviate these conditions, prevent life-threatening complications, and improve your pet's quality of life.

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: The spleen is highly vascular, so bleeding may occur but is usually controlled during the procedure.
- Infections or Wound Complications: Rarely, the surgical sites may become infected or irritated.
- Conversion to Open Surgery: In some cases, if complications arise during the procedure, a traditional open surgery may be required.

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

Laparoscopic Splenectomy 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 clinical examination, and blood tests or imaging (e.g., ultrasound or CT scan) may be performed to assess the spleen and confirm the diagnosis.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed to administer fluids, anaesthesia, and medications if needed.

2

Laparoscopic Splenectomy

- Under anaesthesia, the laparoscope and surgical instruments are inserted through small incisions in the abdomen.
- The spleen is carefully detached from surrounding tissues and blood vessels using specialized tools to control bleeding.
- The spleen is removed through one of the incisions, which are then closed with absorbable sutures or surgical glue.

The procedure typically takes 60–90 minutes, depending on the complexity of the case.

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 after surgery.
- Restrict exercise and vigorous activity for 10–14 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 few weeks.
- Follow-up appointments will be scheduled to ensure proper healing and monitor for any complications.

Further information

When to contact us:

Contact us immediately if you notice:

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

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