



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

**Tracheoscopy**

# Introduction:

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At Vetemis Referrals, we prioritise your pet's health and your peace of mind. This guide explains the procedures of laryngoscopy and tracheobronchoscopy, why they may be needed, how to prepare your pet, potential risks, and what to expect during and after the procedure. If you have further questions, our team is always here to help.

## What is a Tracheoscopy?

Laryngoscopy and tracheobronchoscopy are advanced, minimally invasive diagnostic procedures that allow our veterinarians to examine your pet's respiratory system. Using a bronchoscope equipped with a camera and light, we can assess key areas of the airway, including:

- Larynx: The voice box.
- Trachea: The main windpipe.
- Bronchi and bronchioles: The branching airways within the lungs.

The use of flexible or rigid endoscopes allows us to diagnose conditions with high accuracy and perform procedures such as biopsies, removing obstructions, or treating airway abnormalities.

## Indications for a Tracheoscopy?

These examinations help investigate and manage a range of respiratory issues, including:

- Persistent or chronic coughing (with or without blood or mucus).
- Wheezing or abnormal breathing sounds.
- Changes in voice or vocalisation.
- Suspected airway obstructions, foreign bodies, growths, or structural abnormalities.

## What are the risks?

The procedures provide clear insights into the respiratory system's structure and function, often surpassing the capabilities of X-rays, CT scans, or ultrasound.

### 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.
- Laryngospasm or Bronchospasm: These rare airway spasms, more common in cats, can temporarily restrict breathing. Preventative medications, such as local anaesthetics and bronchodilators, are used to reduce this risk.

### Procedure-related Risks

- Minor Bleeding: Small amounts of bleeding may occur at biopsy sites or after growth removal. This is usually self-limiting and stops quickly.
- Perforation (Rare): Instruments can (in very rare cases) cause small tears in the airway, potentially leading to complications like:
  - Pneumothorax: Air leaking into the chest cavity.
  - Haemothorax: Blood collecting in the chest cavity.
  - Pyothorax: Pus accumulating in the chest cavity.

These conditions may require additional treatment or surgery.

# Tracheoscopy 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.

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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.
- 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.

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## Tracheoscopy Procedure

- Small chest incisions allow a thoracoscope to provide high-definition images of the lungs, pleura, and pericardium.
- Abnormalities like tumours, fluid, or inflammation can be assessed.
- Instruments can collect biopsies, drain fluid, or perform treatments like mass removal or hernia repairs.
- The procedure is minimally invasive and ensures thorough evaluation.

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## Home Recovery

- Activity Restrictions: Keep your pet calm and indoors (or on a lead for dogs) for 24 hours to avoid potential hazards while the effects of anaesthesia wear off.
- Monitoring: Mild coughing or throat irritation is normal and should improve within 24–48 hours. Contact us immediately if your pet experiences:
- Laboured breathing or changes in gum/lip colour.
- Persistent or worsening cough.

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## Recovery & Monitoring

- Your pet will be monitored until they recover from anaesthesia.
- A bland meal will be offered before discharge.
- Mild head shaking and minor fluid discharge from the ears are normal for 24–48 hours.

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## 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 will be scheduled to assess your pet's progress or provide further treatment if necessary.

# Further information

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## When to contact us:

Contact us if you notice:

- Swelling, redness, or discharge at the incision site.
- Vomiting, lethargy, or loss of appetite.
- Coughing, difficulty breathing, or noisy breathing.
- Pale gums, fainting, 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](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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