



Exploratory Laparotomy Surgery

This surgical procedure involves an incision into the abdomen to explore abdominal organs to either remove foreign material, or for diagnostic purposes. In some cases, tissue will need to be resected (removed). If no abnormalities or foreign material is noted, biopsies may be collected to send for further histopathology.

Potential Complications

(during surgery and/or during recovery)

- Hemorrhage (excessive bleeding)
- Dehiscence (sutures coming undone)
- Swelling/inflammation at the incision site
- Seroma (a pocket of fluid)
- Infection
- Slow/delayed recovery

Potential Severe Complications

- Biopsy dehiscence
- Sepsis/Peritonitis
- Hernia at the biopsy site
- Ischemia/neurotic (damaged/dead) tissue
- Gastritis
- Gastric perforation

Potential Anesthetic Complications

- Airway irritation
- Low blood pressure
- Hypothermia/hyperthermia
- Cardiovascular collapse
- Cardiac arrhythmias
- Respiratory depression
- Gastric reflux
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Hypoxic brain damage
- Embolism

Recovery Time

Your animal will be monitored closely during surgery, as it awakens from anesthesia, and until stabilized after surgery (this may take days). It can take up to 3 to 5 days for perforation or infection (sepsis) to present. The lengths of your animal's stay will depend on how they recover. At the time of discharge, you will receive instructions for at home care and exercise restriction.

A second surgical procedure may be needed if tissue becomes necrotic (dead), there is evidence of concerning infection/tissue compromise, or if complications occur both during recovery, or once your animal is sent home.

