

Laparoscopic Castration

Laparoscopy can be employed to assist with cryptorchid castrations in male dogs. This is a minimally invasive way of neutering male dogs whose testicle(s) remain in the body cavity as opposed to having descended outside of the body as they should when a male dog goes through adolescence. The advantages of this advanced technique include the ability to locate the undescended testicle(s) without exploratory laparotomy, but rather via small incisions that a laparoscope (camera) can be introduced via, meaning surgical wounds are smaller, the manipulation of tissues is less and the discomfort post-operatively reduced, allowing for a faster recovery for your pet with a reduced resting time of just a few days.

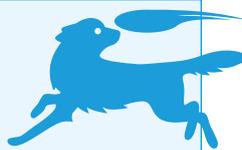
The Surgery

- Your pet will be admitted for the day at your usual veterinary practice. A physical examination will help ensure your pet is fit for general anaesthesia. We may also suggest a blood test at this stage.
- Your pet will be anaesthetised and prepared for the laparoscopic castrate procedure. This involves clipping some fur on his abdomen and sides, depending on where the vet suspects the undescended testicle(s) are located.
- Two small incisions are made; one in the middle of the abdomen for the camera to be introduced, and a second over the site of the undescended testicle which instruments will be inserted via. The size of the wounds varies from 0.5-1cm.
- Gas (carbon dioxide) will be introduced in your pet's abdomen to expand it and allow visualization and safe manipulation of the instruments. The gas will be removed at the end of surgery but some residual "bloated" sensation can remain for the first 24 hours. This does not generally cause any concern.
- The laparoscope allows for a detailed inspection of the abdominal region so should any abnormalities be noted, these will be raised with your primary care vet.
- The wounds are closed with internal dissolvable sutures so there are no visible sutures needing removal.
- Your pet will stay in for the day to be monitored until he is fully recovered and ready to go home later on the same day.
- He will be given anti-inflammatory medication to continue at home for 3 days.
- A medical pet shirt or buster collar must be used to prevent patient interference to the wound. This should remain in place until the wounds are healed, for which a check should take place 5 days post-operatively.



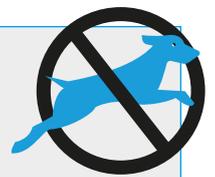
Complications

The procedure has significantly less risks associated and usually the bleeding is very minimal compared with the traditional methods. In the rare event there is any unexpected bleeding or complication, the procedure will be converted into a traditional castrate. This means that there will be a slightly larger wound, and increased resting time (up to 2 weeks).



Aftercare

We routinely recommend 5 days of rest following a laparoscopic castration and after that your pet can return to normal exercise. The wounds take 10-12 days to be fully healed and sealed so care is needed to prevent them getting wet or contaminated. We would recommend using a surgical vest (pet medical shirt) to cover the whole body and prevent your pet from licking their wound. The vest is usually better tolerated compared with a buster collar and offers the benefit of covering the wounds, preventing them from getting dirty or wet when going outside.



Our smallest patients

This surgery may not be possible in the smallest breeds of dogs due to the size of the abdomen and the limited space there is to manipulate the instruments. In these cases, it may be safer to perform a traditional exploratory cryptorchid castration as the size of the wound will not be significantly bigger than the two wounds of the laparoscopic approach combined.