



Riverside Small Animal Hospital
Suite 102, 945 Lorne Street, Kamloops BC, V2C 1X1
Phone: (250) 372 7781
Fax: (250) 372 7092
Email: rsah@shaw.ca
Website: riversidesmallanimalhospital.ca

Laparoscopy

What is Laparoscopy?

Laparoscopy is a minimally invasive technique for viewing the internal structures of the abdomen. A laparoscope (camera) inserted through a small incision in the abdominal wall magnifies the internal structures on a medical grade monitor. Surgical instrumentation is introduced through a working channel in the laparoscope, to allow surgical procedures to be carried out. Laparoscopy has been adopted as a surgical technique which reduces surgical trauma, is more precise and has significantly reduced recovery time when compared to traditional open surgeries.



What procedures do we do with the laparoscope?

The most frequent procedure we undertake with the laparoscope is the spay. Traditional spays are conducted through a mid-line abdominal incision which is often 5cm or more in length. During the procedure the ovarian ligament has to be stretched and ultimately torn from the body wall, causing internal bruising and post-operative pain. There is also significant tension placed on the ovaries and uterus during removal which also causes post operative pain and discomfort.

A laparoscopic spay is performed through a single 12mm incision, using a rigid endoscope called a laparoscope. The Ovarian ligament is not stretched but is instead cauterized and cut in situ using a special endoscopic tool called an endoblade. Laparoscopic surgery allows much better visualization of the internal organs without disturbing them, and independent studies have shown that dogs spayed laparoscopically suffer 65% less pain and have a far shorter recovery time than traditional Spays.

We also carry out other major procedures using the 'scope. Biopsies can be undertaken through small incisions with far less operative trauma. We can use it to assist in bladder surgeries, and prophylactic gastropexies where we attach the stomach to body wall to prevent Bloat in large breed dogs. In all these cases there is less trauma and much faster return to full activity than with traditional approaches

Okay, my pet is going to have a Laparoscopic procedure. What should I expect?

The first thing you will notice is that Laparoscopic procedures have a very small incision (10 to 12mm) compared to traditional open abdominal procedures. The second thing you will notice is how much more quickly your pet will return to normal activity levels after the procedure.



After surgery your pet may be quieter than usual when you collect them due to the after effects of General Anesthesia. Although laparoscopic surgery is far less uncomfortable than traditional open abdominal surgery, your pet will have received pain relieving drugs and will be sent home with medication to take for the next couple of days. Usually our laparoscopic surgery patients are back to normal the next day (depending on the procedure) but we do still advise that they take it easy for a few days more.

