



Endoscopy investigations

We offer a comprehensive range of endoscopic facilities for your dogs or cats including video endoscopy.

Endoscopy involves examining the inside of your pet's body using an endoscope, which is a long tube with a light and small video camera at the end. Images of the inside of your pet's body can then be seen on a screen and recorded on a video. Endoscopy is a minimally invasive medical procedure. In addition to visualisation, endoscopy can be used to retrieve foreign objects and for taking biopsies.

Specialised endoscopes have specific names such as:

Bronchoscopes: to examine the air passages and the lungs

Gastrosopes: to examine the oesophagus and stomach

Colonoscopes: to examine the colon

Rhinoscopes: to examine the nasal passages

What happens during endoscopy?

Endoscopy requires your pet to be anaesthetised. We are very aware that many of the patients requiring endoscopic investigations are poorly or frail. We take great care to formulate sedation and anaesthesia protocols that minimise the risk to the utmost of our abilities. It is important to note that there is always a risk to sedation or anaesthesia but if your vet suggests endoscopy, it will be for an important reason that will help him/her to choose the most appropriate treatment and medication that your pet might need. Your vet will be happy to discuss any investigation and treatment options with you.

Once asleep, the scope will be inserted into the required area and will hopefully visualise potential abnormalities. Small biopsies can be taken and sent to a laboratory for analysis; due to the small size of the samples there is always a risk that the pathologist may report the biopsies as non-diagnostic but this is an unusual occurrence and in most cases important information can be gleaned from the investigations.

In most cases, endoscopy procedures last between 30 and 60 minutes. Radiographs may also be required during the same anaesthetic. Patients normally go home the same day.



What preparation is required?

Your pet must be fasted before the procedure. For most cases, this involves removing food by 9pm the night before the procedure, although access to fresh water is allowed. However for certain procedures, a slightly longer fast is required and your vet will discuss this with you if required.

What are the complications of an endoscopy?

Endoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure and hence has a low rate of complications. However all procedures carry a small risk, including

- Risk of anaesthesia
- Infection, somewhere along the path of the endoscope
- Piercing/tearing of an organ which may require subsequent surgery
- Bleeding more than normally expected; this may require subsequent surgery

What costs are involved?

The costs vary substantially depending on the size of your pet, type of endoscopy required, and whether concurrent radiographs or ultrasound scans are indicated. Your vet will be happy to provide you with a detailed and personalised estimate should endoscopy be indicated in the investigation of your pet's condition.