



Elective Gastropexy

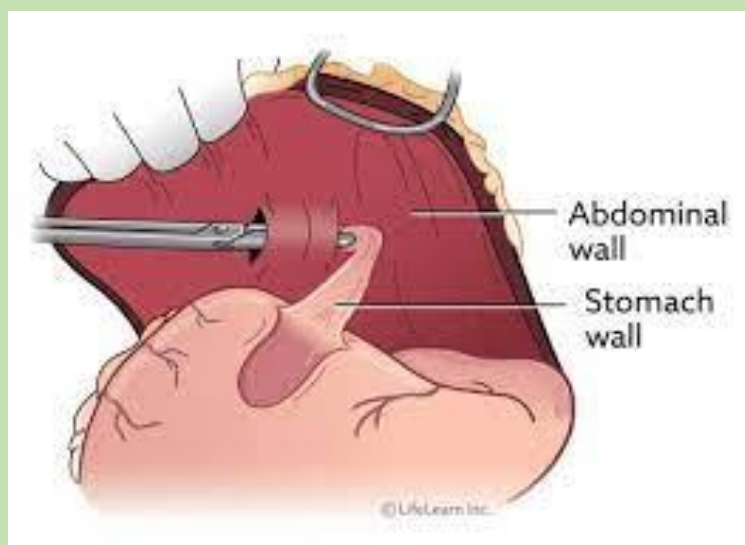
What is bloat/GDV?

Bloat is where the stomach fills with gas and becomes hugely enlarged. This is a very painful condition. Both dogs and cats can be affected, but it is rarely seen in cats, and most commonly affects large breed dogs such as Great Danes, Rottweilers, Dobermans, Mastiffs, German Shepherds, Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Weimaraners and others. It can occur at any age.

Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus (GDV) is where this already enlarged stomach twists in (usually) a clockwise direction. This condition is 100% fatal without emergency surgery and intensive care, but with quick recognition and treatment the survival rates approach around 80%.

What is a gastropexy?

A gastropexy is a surgical procedure where the stomach is stitched to the inside of the body wall in a normal anatomical position. This involves making a long incision into the abdomen along the underside of the belly in order to access the stomach.



Why do we perform a gastropexy?

A gastropexy prevents GDV by stopping the stomach from twisting. Bloat may still be possible even if the dog has had a gastropexy performed, but the frequency of this occurring is far less than in dogs who have not had a gastropexy. We can perform this surgery at any time, on dogs of any age. However, as it is a preventative procedure, it makes the most sense to have this done while your dog is still young.

What are the costs involved?

As this is a surgical procedure which involves a full general anaesthetic and achieving access to the abdominal organs, we recommend that the procedure be performed in any at risk dog who is already undergoing an anaesthetic, especially an abdominal procedure. It is most cost effective to perform this procedure at the same time as desexing. If performed with desexing, the costs are as follows:

For female dogs, the cost is \$275 in addition to the usual spay costs.

In male dogs, we are making an additional incision into the abdomen, so the costs are higher than for females. For males, the cost is \$550 in addition to the usual castration costs.

Is there any special after care?

For female dogs, there is no additional after care required beyond that which we would normally recommend following a spay procedure, as a spay also involves making an incision into the abdomen.

If the procedure is performed at the same time as desexing in male dogs, they will have an abdominal incision in addition to the usual incision in front of the scrotum. Therefore they will require strict rest, smaller more frequent meals, and special attention paid to monitoring the abdominal wound for any signs of infection or pain.

A post operative discharge appointment will be made with you so that one of our surgical nurses can discuss the procedure and after care with you when you come to collect your pet.

How do I book this procedure?

If you are interested in having this procedure performed for your dog, we recommend having this at the time of desexing. Simply advise our nurses at the time of booking, and confirm with our admission nurse on the day of surgery.

If you would like the procedure performed at a different time, please feel free to chat with any of our lovely vets or nurses for more information.