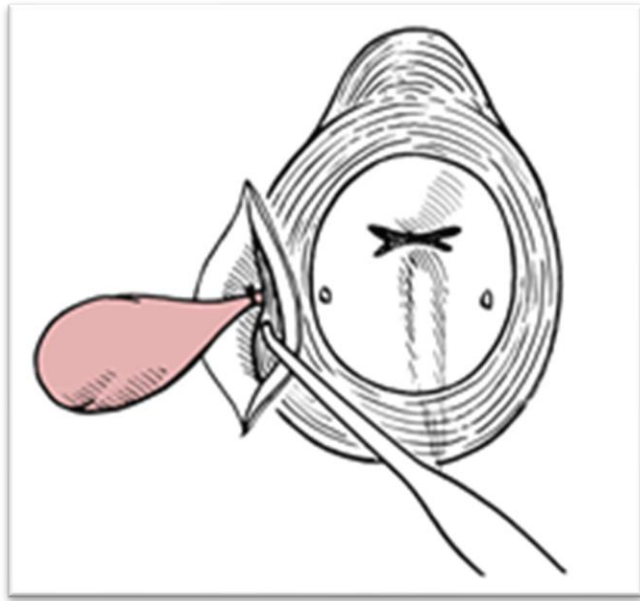


Anal Sacculectomy

The Procedure

This procedure is performed in dogs that have chronic and recurrent anal sac impaction (therefore requiring regular visits for anal sac emptying), or recurrent anal sac infections.

Clinical signs in your pet associated with chronic and recurrent impaction include continual licking at the rear end, scooting or rubbing their bottom on the ground, sudden turning to look at the rear end (some owners describe it as looking like their pet has just been stung), or a specific smelly discharge that is identified around the rear end that isn't normally there, or is left behind after their pet has been sitting somewhere.



The anal sacs sit underneath the skin next to the anus. For us to prepare the surgical site, it is necessary for us to clip the fur around the rear end. 2 small incisions are made next to the anus to allow for dissection. Once the sacs and associated ducts are removed, the area is flushed and closed, generally with hidden (intra-dermal) sutures that will not need removal.

Surgical Site

It is important that your pet is not allowed to access the surgical site during the phase of skin healing, to minimise complications associated with patient interference. This will mean that an Elizabethan collar will need to be worn. If your pet cannot eat or drink with the collar on, it is fine for it to be removed for this, but please replace it at all other times.

We would recommend cold compress for 3 days after the surgery if your pet will tolerate it. This reduced inflammation and provides additional pain relief. If you have a cold pack or a bag of frozen vegetables, wrap this with a tea towel and apply to the rear end for 10 minutes three times a day.

Medication

Please follow the post operative discharge sheet that will be provided on the day of surgery. Your pet will come home with a combination of anti-inflammatories/pain killers and antibiotics.

Post operative checks

3 days and 10 days post operatively to check the surgical site.

Exercise

Please do not exercise your pet for 10 days after the surgery to allow healing to progress. Once you have had your final post operative check, exercise can be re-introduced.

Post operative expectations and potential complications

The aim of the surgery is to remove the anal sacs and therefore resolve the clinical signs mentioned above. For some dogs, peri-anal irritation (irritation around the rear end) can be in relation to skin issues. Often removal of anal sacs can improve signs of licking and rubbing the rear end in these cases, but it may not resolve completely as the underlying skin issue will still be present. Any unpleasant smell associated in relation to the anal sacs however, will resolve in these cases.

For those pets who have isolated anal sac issues (chronic/recurrent impaction with or without infection), these clinical signs will be resolved.

Potential complications associated with this surgery are rare, but it is important to discuss this prior to surgery. They include:

- 1) Post operative infection
- 2) Wound breakdown
- 3) Chronic fistula formation
- 4) Short term incontinence that resolves within 4 weeks
- 5) Long term incontinence