

Lump Removal Pre-Surgery Information

Patient Name

Date Of surgery.....

There may be several reasons for the removal of lumps some of which are:

- The lump may be irritating to your pet causing chewing or scratching which can lead to infection.
- If the lump is large or in an awkward place, it may be prone to getting knocked and damaged.
- Some lumps may be a little more sinister. Lumps that are fast growing, ulcerated and firmly attached are likely to be cancerous and may spread to other parts of the body.



The Procedure

Before removing a lump a fine-needle aspirate may be necessary to give us a better understanding of what we are dealing with, and help us develop the best surgical procedure for optimum results.

- This simple procedure is quick and relatively painless. It involves using fine needle and syringe to aspirate or "vacuum" some of the cells from the lump. These cells can then be looked at under a microscope.

The removal of lumps are generally done under an anaesthetic or heavy sedation.

- Very small lumps, such as small warts and skin tags can be cauterised. As the blood vessels are sealed by the heat, there is no need for stitches.
- For larger lumps the surgery may be more involved, and may include the following:

After your pet is anaesthetised the area around the lump is shaved and surgically cleaned. The lump is then carefully removed from the underlying tissue. Lump removal often leaves an open wound which will then be stitched closed.

- The vet may decide to stitch in place a soft rubber 'Penrose' drain. This drain will assist in the removal of 'PUS' or 'Fluid', which may accumulate. The drain will need to stay in for up to 5 days and will require daily flushing with warm salty water.

As well as having a drain in place there will also be external stitches, to hold the wound closed. These stitches will need to be in place for up to 10 days, the veterinarian will remove them at the final re-check.

Your pet may be sent home on a course of antibiotics to help ensure that no infection takes hold.

- The length of the operation will depend on the size and number of the lumps and how firmly attached they are to the body.

Histopathology

For an additional cost, suspicious lumps may be sent to a laboratory for examination. This will determine whether or not the lump is cancerous, if the entire lump was removed and whether it is likely to spread. Results may take up to a week.

If your pet's lump proves to be malignant, we will discuss in detail with you the options for further treatment, which may involve chemotherapy.

- However, in most cases lumps can be fully removed and many are benign in nature

Pain Relief

All pets undergoing surgery at Hamilton Veterinary Clinic have an analgesic (painkiller) as part of their premedication, so that they are more comfortable and therefore less frightened when they wake up.

- ✓ You will also receive a pain relief tablet for the night of the procedure to ensure they have a comfortable night's rest, and may receive a short course of painkillers (depending on the nature of the surgery). This will ensure your pet is comfortable and pain free through their recovery process.

Admission

Admission is between the hours of 7.30am and 9.30am.

In the admission you will meet the veterinary nurse that will be looking after your pet throughout the entire surgical procedure. We shall ask you, or an authorised adult, for written permission to perform the operation on your pet. We make time to guide you through the consent form so that we can explain any terms that you do not understand or are worried about. Please allow 5-10 minutes for this.

The nurse looking after your pet will call you when the procedure is completed and your pet has made a smooth and stable recovery.

- **Fasting:** Please fast your pet of food only for 12 hours prior to the surgery. Offer plenty of water overnight and in the morning.
- **DO NOT** fast Birds or pocket pets.

Pre Anaesthetic Blood testing

Upon arrival your pet will receive a full health check to determine if there are any pre-existing problems, which may have an influence on some of the drugs and materials we use. Some problems, however, cannot be determined by physical examination alone and we have the facility to perform a pre-anaesthetic blood screen to determine whether there is likely to be an increased risk.

- We have a modern blood analyser for this purpose and results are available within 20 minutes, allowing any adjustments to be made in the anaesthetic protocol. Please ask for further details.

Fluid Therapy

As is routine in human hospitals, we provide intravenous fluid support (a drip) for our patients. We believe this benefits all pets and allows them to make a stronger and speedier recovery. It also keeps a vein open for smooth injections of anaesthetic agents and medications, helps maintain stable blood pressure throughout the anaesthesia and lowers the risk of post-anaesthesia complications.

Discharge

You will receive a folder with aftercare information, any medication needed, results of blood test, depending on the services provided. The discharging nurse will take you through the information and ensure you are happy, well informed and comfortable with the after care of your pet.

We know that even the most minor operation may cause considerable anxiety. We shall keep you involved all the way and we assure you that we shall give your pet individual and caring attention. We look forward to seeing you and your pet.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us on 49696852 or visit us at www.hamiltonvet.com.au

References: www.bicestervets.co.uk
www.montalbertvet.com.au