



## Aftercare following endoscopy

*Endoscopy which is a minimally invasive procedure to enable a visual inspection of a body area and take samples where necessary/possible.*

Samples are often very helpful to try to rule in/out disease processes but it is possible to get inconclusive results. For example cancer cannot be completely excluded even if the samples don't show any signs of it. Any samples taken will be sent to a laboratory for analysis and the results are usually returned to us within 14 days and we will contact you when they do. If you have not heard from us after 14 days then please contact the practice and we can follow them up.

There are some risks to performing endoscopy as for all surgical procedures, but fortunately these are low with endoscopy.

**Things to be aware of and monitor in the days after endoscopy include the following:**

**Bleeding** – certain endoscopic biopsies can cause bleeding. We are often sampling abnormal tissue which can be very vascular. It is common after rhinoscopy (endoscopy of the nose) to have blood clots and bleeding when the patient sneezes for several days after the procedure. This should never be a constant stream but the occasional blood drip is quite normal.

**Perforation** – this is a tear in the organ being assessed (gastrointestinal, bladder or airway endoscopy) and is an emergency. THIS IS EXTREMELY RARE. However you should contact a veterinarian immediately if you notice any abdominal pain or swelling, any malaise, vomiting, difficulty in urinating, absence of urination for more than 12 hours, or if breathing difficulties are noticed.

Endoscopy is performed under a general anaesthetic (rarely sedation only). Issues relating to general anaesthetics include:

**Coughing.** This can be noted for a few days after a general anaesthetic because of the placement of a tube into the trachea (“windpipe”) to administer oxygen and anaesthetic gas during the procedure. Coughing is typically intermittent, “dry” and only occasional. The coughing should get milder and less frequent as time goes on. If the reverse is true, seek advice.

**Copious and frequent urination in the early post-anaesthetic period is likely** because we administer intravenous fluids during anaesthesia. Please be ready for this. Give plenty of opportunity for urination, make a point of noting when urine is passed, and keep your pet clean and dry. If no urination has been noted by the following morning, please ring us for advice.

**Patients may be less inclined than usual to drink in the hours after a general anaesthetic.** This is because we use intravenous fluids routinely and the pets will be well hydrated. Water should still be provided though.

**A pet will typically eat within a few hours of an anaesthetic.** Their normal diet can usually be fed.

**Faeces may not be passed for a day or two after a general anaesthetic.** This is not generally a cause for concern, but if nothing has been passed by four days, please ring for advice.

**After a general anaesthetic, or even a sedative, a patient may remain drowsy for a few hours, and be less able to manage their own temperature and comfort than usual.** In summer keep them in the shade to avoid overheating which might result if they doze in the sunshine. In winter, make sure they stay tucked up in the warm. Avoid your pet getting wet if it is raining as this is likely to cause chilling. Use an umbrella when they are taken out to relive themselves!

**Vomiting** in the hours after an anaesthetic is not typical. It would most likely be due to the patient's underlying condition or to medications that have been given like non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. If vomiting or diarrhoea is noted, you should seek advice promptly.

Our fixed prices include any follow up consults done with us, but don't include further medication, repeat procedures or revision surgery. For further details please see [www.wm-referrals.com](http://www.wm-referrals.com), “about us”, “FAQs”. Any subsequent consults, procedures and drugs from your usual vet will be chargeable. For further advice please contact us on 07944 105501 or at [enquiries@wm-referrals.com](mailto:enquiries@wm-referrals.com). Consider texting/emailing pictures.