



Veterinary Video Endoscopy

Key Points

- Allows veterinarian to look inside body cavities to search for diseases.
- Allows for minimally invasive procedures resulting in quicker recoveries.
- Better diagnostics equals better treatments equals better health.

Endoscopy simply means to look inside a body cavity such as a joint, the stomach or colon with a viewing instrument. Video endoscopy is the preferred method because the image from the endoscope is played on a video monitor allowing better viewing than through a small eyepiece on the endoscope (similar to the difficulty looking through a telescope). These images can be recorded on a VCR tape for later review and even printed out using a video printer. We provide both rigid endoscopy (such as arthroscopy, looking inside a joint and various laproscopic surgeries) and flexible endoscopy (such as gastroscopy or colonoscopy) at Seaside Animal Care.

Endoscopy has several uses in veterinary medicine. Perhaps the most obvious is the ability to look into the esophagus (the "food tube") and stomach for **obstructions**. We see several cases a year where a pet has a rawhide, bone or toy lodged in its esophagus or stomach. In certain cases, we will be able to retrieve the object with our endoscope, thus avoiding surgery. In other cases, we will be able to better judge whether or not an object will likely pass without surgical intervention. The end result is less invasive procedures and better outcomes.

Other important uses include searching for the **cause(s) of chronic vomiting or diarrhea**. With video endoscopy, we can study the esophagus, stomach small intestine and colon for the cause of the problem. We can identify ulcers, polyps or other growths, abnormal anatomy and so on. Additionally, if we observe suspicious tissue, we can biopsy it and submit it to a pathologist for evaluation.

We are also able to **study the ear canal** in great detail to document infections, polyps, narrowed ear canals, wax plugs and even foreign objects. Biopsies of suspicious tissues and even surgical removal of ear canal tumors can often be performed with endoscopy. You can not fully appreciate how bad an ear infection is until you see it in vibrant color on paper!

Procedures that were once time-consuming and required general anesthesia can now be done quickly and often under mild sedation. The **placement of feeding tubes**, once a somewhat risky procedure, is now a relatively simple and fast one. As veterinary laproscopic procedures become more advanced, there will be few surgical procedures that can not be performed in a minimally invasive manner. This means smaller incisions, less normal tissues that are disturbed and faster recoveries for your pet loved one.

Seaside Animal Care – providing the most advanced and compassionate in pet health care!

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