

## ACCES for Pet Health

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### New Veterinary Technology comes to ACCES!

By Jean Maixner, DVM

At ACCES we are committed to staying up to date with the latest in veterinary medicine and technology. We are excited to announce that we are now able to offer Laparoscopy through our surgical services department. Read on to find out more about how this great technology can benefit your pet!

#### What is Laparoscopy?

*Laparoscopic* comes from two Greek words. The first is *lapara*, which means "the soft parts of the body between the rib margins and hips," or, more simply, the "flank or loin." The other Greek root is *skopein*, which means "to see or view or examine." Skopein has become -scope in English. ([medterms.com](http://medterms.com))

Laparoscopy is a minimally invasive surgery that uses a light source and a camera to visualize organs and perform surgical procedures in the abdominal cavity. It is used in both human and veterinary medicine.

This form of medical procedure has been around since the early 1900's and originally involved the use of aluminum tubing, mirrors and a candle as the light source to view internal organs. Today's laparoscopy uses a very bright light source with a camera

connected to a monitor. The light source/camera is inserted into the abdomen through a small incision and the internal organs are viewed on a screen. Surgical instruments are passed through additional small abdominal incisions. In this way, the abdomen can be examined and surgery can be performed with minimal trauma to the patient.

#### What Kinds of Procedures Can be done with a Laparoscope?

- Exploratory Surgery: The most common procedures include exploratory surgery. Exploratory surgery is used to evaluate the internal organs and look for masses, diseased organs or other abnormalities.
- Organ or Mass Biopsy: A biopsy is a procedure used to obtain pieces of tissue to evaluate for disease. Laparoscopy can be used to aid in the biopsy of almost any

abdominal organ.

- Other abdominal procedures include: examination of draining tracks and deep wounds, bladder surgery, gastropexy (tacking of the stomach in "bloat prone breeds"), gall bladder removal, and intestinal foreign body removal.
- The equipment can also be used to explore the chest cavity and perform various chest surgeries.



ACCES surgeon Tamara Walker, DVM DACVS performs a Laparoscopy on a canine patient.

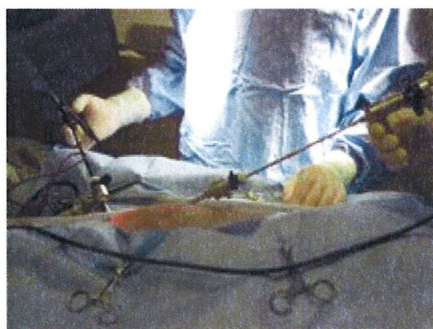


An early version of a laparoscope, circa 1900.

#### What are the advantages of Laparoscopy?

- Laparoscopy is not as traumatic as traditional open-abdomen surgeries
- There is faster surgical recovery compared to traditional open abdomen surgeries
- Because recovery is faster, there is less hospital time and lower cost to the owner
- It is less painful compared to traditional open-abdomen surgeries
- Biopsies of organs and masses can be visualized and monitored for bleeding and other complications

#### What are the disadvantages of Laparoscopy?



Using a Laparoscope means a surgery that is minimally invasive. This presents many benefits to patient and client.

•Although visualization with the laparoscope is very good, small masses or abnormalities may be missed if they are in a difficult area to visualize with the camera.

In general, the advantages of laparoscopy far outweigh the disadvantages.

At ACCES, we perform the above conditions frequently and are pleased to offer a new service to benefit our patients and clients. For

more information about this procedure, please visit our website at [www.criticalcarevets.com](http://www.criticalcarevets.com).

Posted by **Christina Ryan** at May 2, 2009 7:22 p.m.

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