



## LAPAROSCOPY

Laparoscopy is keyhole surgery using a camera to look inside the abdominal cavity either for exploration of the abdominal organs or to perform a procedure such as biopsy or spaying. It involves inflating the abdomen with carbon dioxide then inserting the camera via a small incision ( port ) just behind the umbilicus (belly button). Another small incision can be made to introduce instruments.

It is a commonly performed procedure in human beings due to the shortened recovery time post operatively.

### Laparoscopic spaying

Your bitch can be spayed using keyhole surgery. The ovaries are isolated and the ligaments and blood vessels attached to the ovaries are coagulated using diathermy. The ovaries are then removed through the instrument port. The uterus is left in place which has no adverse consequences. The incisions are closed with tissue glue or one dissolvable stitch. Ideal patients are juvenile (6 months of age before the first season) and slim. Obese patients or very large dogs can increase the risk of intra-operative bleeding which is the most common cause for needing to convert to an open procedure.

Advantages of keyhole spaying include smaller incisions (two 5cm incisions compared to one 5-10 cm incision), less post operative pain and shorter recovery times (1-3 days compared to 7-10 days).

Disadvantages include the need for specialised surgeon and equipment and therefore an increased cost to the procedure, and the occasional need to convert to an open procedure.

Cost of keyhole spaying is £90 more than open spaying.