

Colonoscopy

Colonoscopy is performed after a complete diagnostic workup and therapeutic plan have failed to resolve problems linked to the lower intestine. To perform colonoscopy, the patient is anesthetized and a flexible fiberoptic endoscope is passed into the colon. Air, passed through the scope, increases the view within the colon. Biopsies can be obtained by passing an instrument through an opening in the scope. Colonoscopy provides a valuable, non-surgical means to diagnose large bowel disorders. To perform colonoscopy it is important that the colon be clean of fecal matter so that the surface of the colon can be visualized. This often requires withholding food for 24 to 48 hours and giving your pet a solution to drink which “cleanses” the colon. Warm water enemas may also be used to clear the colon. Most patients are discharged the same day of the procedure.

The major symptoms and reasons for Colonoscopy are:

1. Chronic diarrhea of large bowel origin
2. Blood in the stool (persistent *hematochezia*)
3. Study of a growth in the colon or rectum
4. Straining during defecation (persistent *tenesmus*)
5. Excessive mucus in the stool
6. Stools in which the size is significantly decreased or narrowed

The NWVS Pet Owner Education Project

An informational brochure prepared and provided by:



NWVS

Northwest Veterinary Specialists

16756 S.E. 82nd Drive
Clackamas, Oregon 97015
(503) 656-3999, 1-800-915-9717
Fax (503) 557-8672
www.northwestvetspecialists.com

Urethroscopy/Cystoscopy

Urethroscopy is the endoscopic study of the urethra. Cystoscopy is the endoscopic study of the lining of the bladder. Usually these studies are performed together as one procedure. Both rigid and flexible scopes can be used to perform the exam. Rigid scopes are generally used for female patients. Small diameter flexible scopes are used on male dogs. Biopsies of the urethral surface or bladder wall can be obtained by passing the biopsy instrument next to the scope, through the protective outer sleeve of the scope or through an opening built into the scope. This procedure requires little patient preparation outside of withholding food on the day of the procedure. In most cases patients are discharged the same day the procedure is performed.

The major symptoms and reasons for Urethroscopy and/or Cystoscopy are:

1. Blood in the urine (persistent *hematuria*) without a cause
2. Persistent straining to urinate without a cause
3. Persistent vaginal discharge
4. Removal of bladder stones (*cystic calculi* or *urethral calculi*)
5. Biopsy of known bladder growth
6. Urinary incontinence
7. Study of congenital urinary tract problems

The NWVS Pet Owner Education Project

An informational brochure prepared and provided by:



NWVS

Northwest Veterinary Specialists

16756 S.E. 82nd Drive
Clackamas, Oregon 97015
(503) 656-3999, 1-800-915-9717
Fax (503) 557-8672
www.northwestvetspecialists.com