

Informed Consent

Cervical (Neck) Explore

Your pet has been diagnosed with a problem (infection/abscess, tumor/mass) in the neck area. You have elected to have this site explored surgically in hopes of either arriving at a diagnosis (abscess versus tumor), collecting diagnostic specimens (culture swab and/or tissue samples), and possibly to cure the problem, if a foreign agent is found or if a mass can be removed. The prognosis in these cases depends on the underlying cause, our ability to find/treat the cause, and the response to therapy. Generally, the prognosis is ultimately good to excellent, but sometimes more than one surgery is needed (see below). Below are the risks and complications with surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

The risk of complications after cervical explore is low, about 15% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

Infection/failure of mass or abscess to resolve/recurrence- this may require oral antibiotic therapy and in some cases may require additional surgeries and/or drain placements

Recurrence of any tumor- we may not know at the time of surgery we are dealing with a tumor and that might affect local dissemination (spread) of tumor cells and those cells may regrow

Damage to tissues in the area could include muscle, esophagus, trachea, blood vessels, or nerves and could include damage to lymphatic (likely no consequence) or glandular structures (thyroid, parathyroid, salivary glands).