

Informed Consent

Perianal Tumor Removal

Your pet has been diagnosed with a tumor of the tissues around the anus. When these tumors are present within the superficial layers of the skin (skin surface or just below the skin/subcutaneous tissue), they are referred to as “perianal tumors.” Surgery is recommended to remove them because they can be benign or malignant, and it is very difficult to tell if they are benign or malignant without removing them and sending them to the lab for diagnosis. Even though they can be large, removal is usually straightforward. Prognosis is generally excellent after surgery. However, we need to make you aware of the risks and complications associated with this surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

The risk of complications after perianal tumor surgery is low, about 10% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

Infection- this is a risk with any surgery and is usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy.

Wound dehiscence (opening)- if the incision opens up, usually additional medical care is needed, but not usually more surgery.

More extensive surgery is required- if we start operating and find out that the mass doesn't behave like a perianal tumor, more extensive surgery may be required, and this could alter the risk and types of complications. These complications could increase risk of infection and dysfunction (fecal incontinence), and possibly violation of the rectal wall. Some of these risks may be difficult to predict.

Hemorrhage- bleeding can be moderate, but isn't usually severe.

Recurrence- we can see and feel tumors but cannot see or feel tumor cells. If cells from the original tumor remain, those cells have the potential to regrow.

Occurrence of new masses- once a dog tends to form perianal tumors, they may continue to grow new masses. Monitoring is recommended.