

Informed Consent

Rhinotomy (Explore of the Nasal Passages)

You have elected to have your pet undergo a surgical procedure called rhinotomy. This is a procedure by which the bone of the nasal cavity is opened to allow exploration of the nasal cavity/sinuses for the purpose of tissue sampling, mass removal, granule a removal, or foreign body removal. Prognosis is generally good 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 rhinotomy is low, about 15% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

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

Failure to resolve the underlying issue- this can be due to a difficult to find foreign body, an aggressive infection, or aggressive cancer. Additional therapies may be recommended.

Hemorrhage- the nasal cavities are very well supplied by blood supply. Hemorrhage can be profuse in surgery, and often, can be profuse after surgery as well. In severe cases, blood transfusions are recommended.

Subcutaneous emphysema- this is a collection of air under the skin and usually is self limiting until the incisions begin to heal

Nasal obstruction- blood clots or persistent disease may block airflow in the nose and this may affect the ability to breathe through the nose.

Aspiration pneumonia- the inadvertent inhalation of material (food, water, saliva) meant to be swallowed can cause infection in the lungs. Aspiration pneumonia can be mild or very severe and potentially life threatening.

Reduced appetite- smell is an important motivator for eating and some pets do not want to eat if they cannot smell their food, additional procedures or supplements may be needed

Nasal discharge- fluid, pus, or blood can continue coming from the nose after surgery, depending on the underlying cause, severity of disease, extent of surgery and response to therapies

Permanent disfigurement- depending on the extent of disease and surgery, there could be permanent disfigurement if tissue is removed

Inadvertent entrance into the cranial vault (brain case), damage to the cribriform plate (separates the nose from the cranial vault)-if these areas are violated, this could which could lead to infection in the brain, a serious condition