

Informed Consent

Sialadenectomy (Removal of the Salivary Glands)

You have elected to have your pet undergo a surgical procedure called sialadenectomy. This is a procedure by which the salivary glands on one side are removed to treat a condition called salivary mucocele. Essentially, there is a defect somewhere in the gland/duct complex leading to the collection of saliva in a pocket instead of the mouth, where it is swallowed. The fluid collection usually occurs in the neck, but could occur under the tongue (ranula) or in the back of the throat (rare). You have elected surgery to remove the salivary glands on the side of the collection, and this should effectively “turn off the faucet” of saliva. We will clear the fluid that we can, but it shouldn’t collect again after the gland has been removed. Prognosis following surgery is excellent, 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 sialadenectomy 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

Seroma- a collection of fluid (not saliva) is common and is usually self-limiting

Failure to resolve the mucocele- this could happen if significant glandular tissue remains despite surgery, or if the surgery occurred on the side opposite to the problematic gland. Revision surgery may be recommended

Damage to tissues in the area could include muscle, nerves, or blood vessels. Permanent damage is highly unlikely but could include difficulty swallowing.