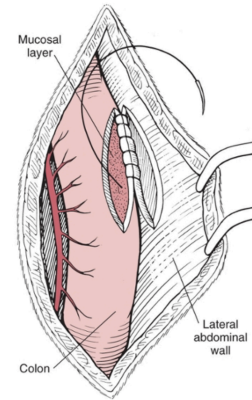
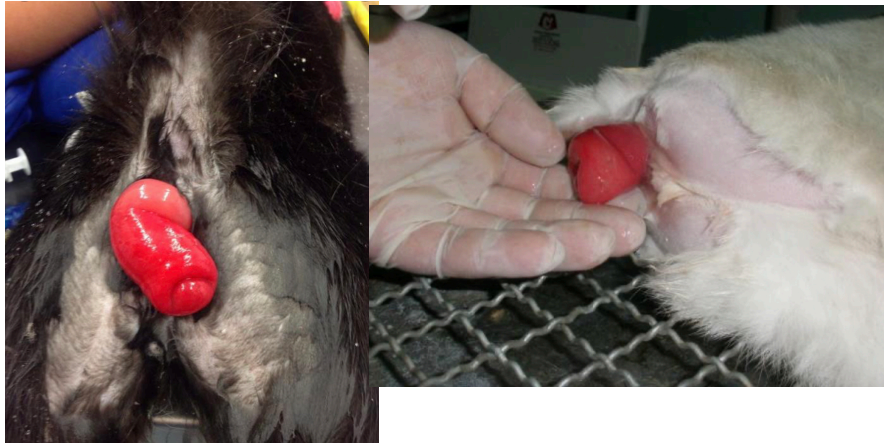


COLOPEXY: Surgery Treatment for Rectal Prolapse



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WHAT IS COLOPEXY?

A colopexy is a surgical procedure in which the colon is attached to the abdominal wall. Colopexy is a surgical treatment to treat rectal prolapse & prevent future occurrences of rectal prolapse. It is indicated when rectal prolapse is viable, but NOT digitally reducible or if there is a history of repeated prolapse. Rectal prolapse occurs from any health issue that causes excessive abdominal straining. The problem is usually visually obvious, as a portion of the colon will be protruding out from your pet's anus. Surgery is often provided after medical management options have been exhausted. Your veterinarian will assess your pet & determine if surgery is needed to treat rectal prolapse.

Before a surgery can be decided on, full blood work will need to be run on your pet. This can reveal how your pet's general health is & if it will be stable enough to undergo general anesthesia. If surgery is deemed appropriate, your pet will have to fast for 8 hours (the night before surgery) prior to the operation. No liquids will be allowed in the 4 hours before the procedure.

IV fluids & medications will be administered before the surgery begins. Your pet's abdomen will be shaved after it is sedated. At this point, a middle abdominal incision will be made. Once the abdomen is opened, the colon can be sutured to the LEFT abdominal wall by cutting the outer layer of the colon. Multiple rows of sutures made through the muscles of the abdomen may be used to secure into colon outer mucosa wall. Care should be given to prevent the lumen of the colon from being penetrated. The incision can then be closed usually with absorbable sutures. Once this is completed, caudal traction can be used to determine whether the procedure was successful or NOT. If the prolapsed tissue has died (is devitalized) the devitalized tissue is removed & the remaining rectal tissue sewn together (resection & anastomosis)

EFFICACY

Your pet will likely be placed on pain medication & antibiotics for the first few days after surgery to reduce pain & swelling associated with the surgery. Your pet will need to stay quiet & restrict activity for the first 10-14 days after surgery while the incisions are healing. The skin incision site will need to be checked daily for signs of infection, swelling, redness & discharge. Your vet will remove the sutures & check the incision after 10-14 days. Once your pet is fully recovered from surgery, there should be no further maintenance needed.

Colopexy is often successful & carries minimal complications. A surgical incision has been proven to be more effective than simple sutures alone (purse string suture pattern around the external anus/rectum), although it is often performed after simple sutures have failed. The pet's large intestines (colon) are NOT compromised by this procedure. Overall, prognosis for the animal will heavily depend on the original reason for the rectal prolapse.

RECOVERY

Colopexy is quite painful & as such pain medication should be given as your pet is waking up from the anesthesia. Anti-inflammatory & analgesia (pain management) should be continued for several days thereafter. To keep the incision site free from infection, please prevent your pet from licking or biting at the incision site. An adhesive band aid will be apply after the surgery to protect the surgical site from trauma & infection. An Elizabethan collar should be used to add additional security in protecting the surgery site. Do NOT leave your pet unsupervised, he or she may attempt to get to the surgical site.

An antibiotic prescription may be given to your pet will be given to the dog to prevent infection if deem necessary according to your primary veterinarian. A follow-up appointment will be needed 10-14 days after the operation. At this appointment, your pet's health status will be evaluated & its sutures will be removed. If the procedure was unsuccessful, it will likely be evident within 8 weeks after surgery.

COST

The cost of a colopexy can be anywhere from \$1,000 to \$2,000, depending on who does the surgery & if it needs to be paired with other procedures. The condition cannot be left untreated, as the portions of the colon that protrude from the body will die & the gastrointestinal tract will then be compromised.

CONSIDERATIONS

Since colopexy is a surgery, there are some risks associated with it, most notably infection, bleeding & suture failure (dehiscence). Colopexy should only be used after other treatment options have been exhausted. As with all surgical procedures, the use of general anesthesia can lead to potential complications in some pets. Pets with pre-existing health issues are at a higher risk of developing reactions from the anesthetic. In most cases, minimal or no complications from colopexy will be present & the pet's colon will be restored to its natural function.

PREVENTION

Preventing colopexy involves prevention of the causes of rectal prolapse. To prevent rectal prolapse in pets, it is important to deworm young pets to prevent them from developing intestinal parasites. Pregnancy can be prevented by having your pet fixed. There are numerous health benefits to spaying your pet--namely the prevention of mammary tumors. Urinary disease can predispose pet to rectal prolapse. If rectal prolapse does occur then acting quickly to have your pet be seen by your veterinarian.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your primary veterinarian &/or veterinary surgeon.

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