

A guide to Dermoid Sinus Surgery

Surgery is usually performed at around six weeks of age. It is important to use veterinary practices that have experience in this type of surgery. The cost of surgery may range between £380 and £500.

The surgery is usually straight forward and relatively quick, it is performed under a general anesthetic and the puppy is usually discharged the same day. Normally the puppy will be seen by a vet 10 days to two weeks after the surgery to ensure everything is healing as it should be. The stitches used are normally dissolvable; this means they will not need to be removed.

In most cases the puppy will be given a course of antibiotics to avoid any infection.

It is important to provide and maintain the appropriate care following surgery for Dermoid Sinus removal.

Once the puppy has returned home, they should be kept quiet and isolated from other puppies and playful dogs. This is because rough play, particularly around the surgical site can cause trauma damage. A crate or puppy pen is an ideal place to keep the puppy whilst they are recovering.

It is important to keep the surgical site clean and dry. You can keep the site clean with cooled, boiled water. Clean from the center of the wound and move outwards; this is from the dirtiest to the cleanest part to avoid cross contamination. Never scrub the surgical site and do not attempt to remove any scabs.

In some cases, a buildup of fluid can occur around the surgical site, this is called a Seroma. The site will look swollen and to touch will feel like fluid. Seromas normally heal well if left alone. However, in moderate to severe cases it maybe necessary for your vet to drain the area. Some vets may apply a pressure bandage, however often it is best left open to the air. Once a Seroma has healed there is usually no further reoccurrence.

Puppies that have had surgery to remove a Dermoid Sinus should not have any vaccinations or their microchip implanted in that area, but rather it should be placed off to the side of the midline.

A list of experienced veterinary surgeons is available from our Health Co-ordinator.

1. The DS is the white “thread” on top of the surgeons finger.



2. The DS has been separated from the surrounding tissues.



3. Some fluid built up causing a small seroma.



4. Surgery without a seroma.



5. A large seroma.

