



## VetSurg View Newsletter

The building of our brand new surgical center is well underway on Market Street, right here in Ventura. We will continue to serve the pets in our community from our home base on Loma Vista Drive, and we will keep you updated on the progress of our new facility. Don't forget to check out the new and improved VetSurg website by clicking the link below.

[Visit our Website](#)

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## Veterinary Technician Appreciation Week

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The success of any Veterinary Medical Center is dependent upon the caring, hardworking, and perseverant veterinary technicians that pour their heart and soul into this job every single day. National Veterinary Technician Week was October 16-22nd and we would like to genuinely thank all veterinary technicians for their dedication to this profession. One of our own Registered Veterinary Technicians, Cambria, has been a VetSurg team member for 3 years. Her extensive experience and dedication to advancing her knowledge base as a technician, are only a few ways she leads by example at our hospital. She has recently continued her professional growth by taking on the new role of Patient Support Manager and Training Coordinator. We thank you Cambria for all your hard work and we are lucky to have you!

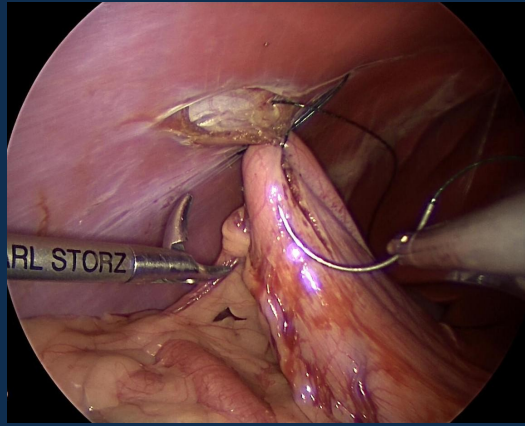


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## Soft Tissue Focus

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# Laparoscopic Ovariectomies and Gastropexies



*Image 1: A laparoscopic intracorporeal gastropexy being performed at VetSurg*

Great Dane owners already know the drill. Certain breeds of dogs, particularly giant breeds and those with an increased thoracic depth-to-width ratio ('deep chested'), are at-risk breeds for the development of Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus (GDV). This is also commonly referred to as 'bloat' and is a life-threatening surgical emergency that involves rotation of the stomach about its axis. The reported lifetime likelihood of developing a GDV is 24% in large-breed show dogs and 21.6% in giant-breed show dogs. Lifetime risk of developing a GDV is as high as 42% in Great Danes (Glickman et al JAVMA 2000).

Prevention, prevention, prevention! A gastropexy involves suturing the seromuscular layer of the stomach to the transversus abdominus muscle along the right lateral body wall. This immobilizes the pyloric antrum, which is the portion of the stomach that rotates during a GDV. It is commonly referred to as a stomach 'tacking', and it prevents the life-threatening rotation of the stomach.

***Surgical Tip: when operating on a patient with a GDV, it is important to remember the rotation of the stomach that takes place. When correctly standing on the patients right side, and with the patient in dorsal recumbency, the pylorus rotates ventrally and to the patients left. To de-rotate, the surgeon must perform the opposite motion. Grasping pylorus and pulling it ventrally and to the patients right while simultaneously pushing the enlarged fundus down (dorsally). This technique aids in de-rotation. Removing air from the stomach via trocharization and suction is helpful. Remember, while the majority of GDV rotations are between 180-270 degrees, some can be 360 degrees which must be identified at surgery.***

In general, there are three different methods by which a gastropexy can be performed. These include an open gastropexy (usually performed as a secondary procedure when a primary abdominal procedure is indicated), a laparoscopic-assisted gastropexy, as well as a laparoscopic intracorporeal gastropexy. What's the difference?

To start off, laparoscopy is utilizing a high-definition camera and small instruments to perform surgery within the abdomen through small incisions.

A laparoscopic-assisted gastropexy involves placing laparoscopic ports along ventral midline to visualize and manipulate the stomach wall internally. Once well identified, a separate incision along the right body wall directly behind the last rib is performed. The stomach is brought to that incision location under laparoscopic guidance and temporarily attached to the body wall incision. A partial thickness gastric wall incision is made to create a muscular ellipse in the gastric wall. The ellipse edges are sutured to the transversus abdominus muscle of the body wall incision under exterior visualization. This creates a strong incisional gastropexy, but does require an external abdominal wall approach and muscular layer closure. Post surgery, patients have more discomfort, have an incision line that must be protected, and may develop incisional swelling, seromas and granulomas. While very effective, there is an invasive component to this approach.

A laparoscopic intracorporeal gastropexy (all internal procedure) involves making laparoscopic ports on the ventral midline and performing the incisional gastropexy internally via specialized laparoscopic suturing devices or laparoscopic needle holders. This technique avoids an incision through muscle bellies which minimizes patient discomfort and incisional complications following the procedure. It results in an equally strong and effective gastropexy. Laparoscopic intracorporeal gastropexies are performed at VetSurg routinely (see image above).

TWO for ONE! We are commonly asked about the timing of a gastropexy for medium to large breed dogs, and the answer largely depends upon the timing of their spay and neuter. This can vary for respective breed. Gastropexies are often performed at the same time as neuters, and for females the same minimally invasive equipment allows for safe and effective ovariectomies to be performed through the same incisions. ***Please see the links below for a few pertinent papers on gastropexies in dogs***

VetSurg Estimates (prices subject to change)

*Laparoscopic Gastropexy + Ovariectomy/Neuter*: \$3,800-\$4,900 depending upon the weight and body size of the patient

[Ward et al 2003](#)

[Przywara et al 2014](#)

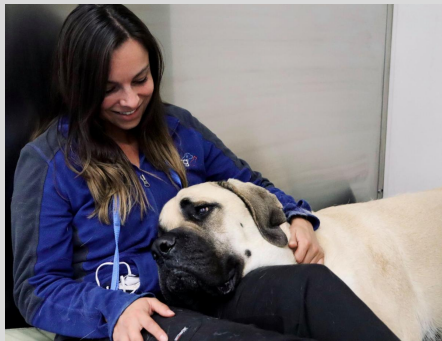
[Balsa et al 2017](#)

[Allen et al 2014](#)

[Loy Son et al 2016](#)

[Coleman et al 2019](#)

## What's new with the VetSurg View Newsletter?



We look forward to continuing to provide our referral veterinary community and clients with up to date information on the latest surgical procedures at our hospital, staff highlights and progress updates on our new facility!

## Our Mission

*To provide safe, effective, and thoughtful veterinary surgical services to our community, while maintaining a compassionate Team approach*

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