Minimally Invasive Surgery at Vet HQ

Vet HQ offers key hole surgery.

Our veterinarians and nurses spend a lot of time each year at conferences, workshops and completing online courses to ensure we are providing the best and most advanced patient care on offer.

In human medicine, the gold standard of treatment for many surgeries is now laparoscopic (key-hole surgery) because it's so minimally invasive.

Advantages:

- Smaller incisions
- More delicate tissue handling
- Lower rate of post-operative infections
- Lower rate of wound complications
- Quicker recovery rates
- Reduced post-operative pain and discomfort

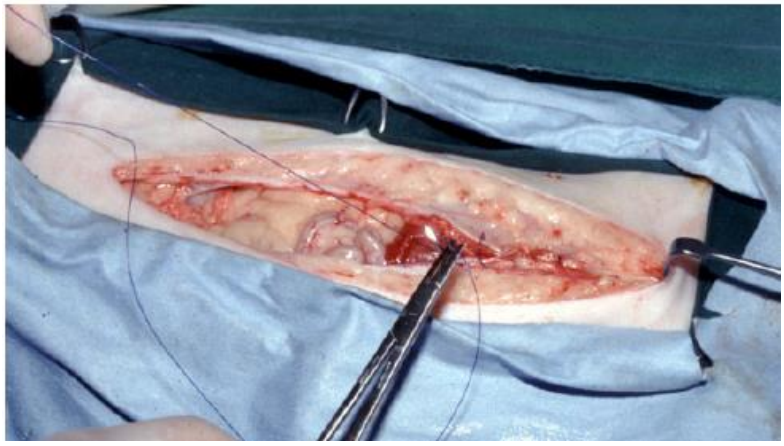
We are proud to be one of only a few practices in Eastern Sydney who have been offering this technology to our very special patients for over 2 years now. We have been able to easily see how key hole surgery benefits our patients and how quickly they recover after surgery.

When we desex a large breed female dog, in order to remove her ovaries and uterus, it requires even the more experienced of surgeons to make an incision of 5-15cm. With key-hole surgery, we can perform the desexing procedure with just two 1cm incisions, making the recovery for that dog so much more pleasant.

Large breed dogs are also more prone to suffering from a twisted stomach (GDV) which is a serious, life threatening condition. One way to help prevent this happening is by performing a procedure called a gastropexy where we sew the stomach to the side of the body so that if the dog ever suffers from bloat, the stomach is unable to twist on itself. It is a procedure that can make the world of difference to a large breed dog, but traditionally has been a big surgery where we have had to make a significant incision on the dog's tummy. With key-hole surgery, we are able to perform the same procedure but with much smaller incisions.

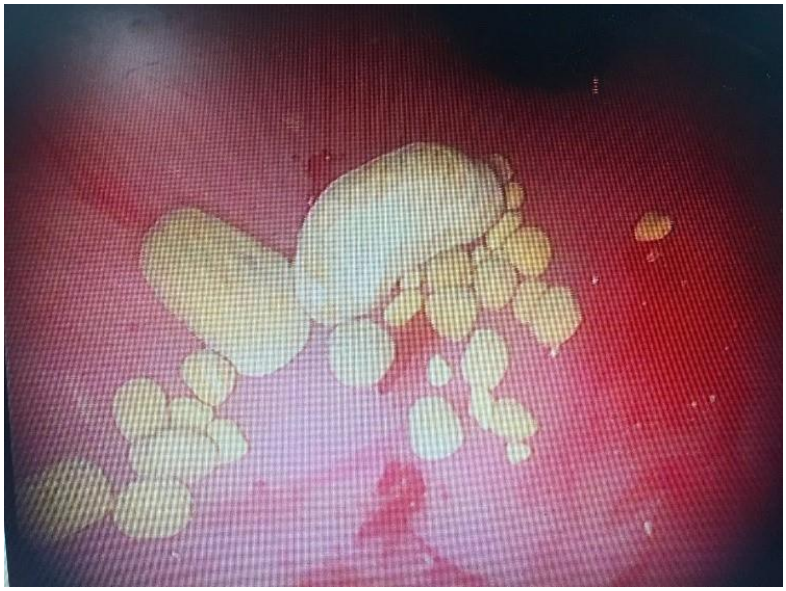
Below are some photos to show the difference in the size of the incisions we need to make to perform liver biopsies with the traditional surgical method, compared with the laparoscopic key-hole method.

Incision line from a traditional surgical liver biopsy



Incisions from a laparoscopic (key-hole) liver biopsy

In the photo below, the yellow stones are present in a dogs bladder. We can visualise them by placing a camera into the bladder which ensures we are able to remove every single one of them and assess any changes to the inside wall of the bladder.



Key-hole surgery isn't appropriate for all animals and for all procedures but a few which they are invaluable for are liver biopsies, bladder surgeries (in particular, bladder stone removals), desexing female dogs and gastropexy.

At Vet HQ we also offer endoscopy for diagnostic biopsy and foreign body/tumour removal from the stomach, intestine, rectum, nose and ear.

For more information or to book your dog in for a laparoscopic procedure, please call us to speak to one of our vets.

Regards,
Dr Nicky Goldberg BVSc MANZCVS (Medicine)