
surgery?

Surgery requires general anaesthesia which always carries some degree of risk, whether the patient is a dog or a person. However, modern anaesthetics make this risk very minimal for dogs that are otherwise healthy. Some dogs will experience lack of good bowel control. They may drop faecal balls as they walk. This occurs because the nerves that control the anus are very near the anal sacs and may be damaged during surgery. However, this is almost always a temporary problem that will usually resolve in a few weeks. Infection of the surgical wound can occur due to the proximity to the anus. Your vet will discuss with you whether surgery is indicated for your dog.

My dog frequently leaves a foul-smelling drop of liquid on the furniture. Is this related?

Some dogs are born with anal canals that do not close well resulting in the ducts constantly draining anal sac fluid. These dogs leave a foul-smelling drop where they have been. There does not appear to be any way to stop this, and these dogs do not outgrow

this problem. This is another possible reason for anal sac removal.

What is involved in surgery and aftercare?

Most dogs having anal sac surgery are kept in hospital overnight and sometimes for 2 days. Your dog will be admitted on the morning of surgery after fasting from 9 p.m. the night before. You will need to keep your dog very quiet for a week after the surgery and check that the wound is clean and dry. A collar ('bucket') may be necessary to prevent your pet chewing out the sutures. Stitches are removed 10 days after the operation.

doyalson animal hospital
423 Scenic Drive
Doyalson NSW 2262

Phone: 43 992129
Web: www.doyalsonvet.com.au

anal sac disorder in dogs

Client information series

doyalson animal hospital

Phone: 43992129

anal sac disorders in dogs

What are anal sacs?

The anal sacs are located on either side of the anus at the 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock positions just under the skin.

They connect to the anus by means of small canals or ducts. Anal sacs produce and store a dark, foul-smelling fluid.

These are the same type of organs that a skunk has to scare away its enemies.

Dogs use these for marking territory, as a small amount of fluid is expressed each time the dog defecates. If the sacs are not properly emptied, the fluid builds up, solidifies and becomes an ideal environment in which bacteria can grow.

What disorders can occur in the anal sacs?

There are 3 diseases that occur in the anal sacs.

When the fluid becomes thick and solidified, the condition is called impaction.

When bacteria grow in this material producing a yellow or bloody pus, the condition is called infection.

When the infection builds to create a hot, tender swelling in the sac, the condition is called an abscess. When the abscessed material overflows the sac, the skin over the sac breaks open, and the pus drains onto the skin.

How will I know if my dog is having problems with its anal sacs?

- Symptoms of anal sac disease are:
- Scooting or dragging the anal area.
- Excessive licking around the tail.
- Pain near the tail or anus.
- A swollen area on either side of the anus.
- Bloody or sticky drainage on either side of the anus.

How are the various anal sac diseases treated?

The treatment for impaction is to express (squeeze out) the sacs and clean out the solidified material. For infection, the sacs must be expressed and antibiotics administered to kill the bacteria. If the sacs form an abscess this will usually need surgical draining by your veterinary surgeon and antibiotics administered.

My dog has had several bouts of anal sac disease. Is there a long-term cure?

Many dogs have recurrent anal sac disease. Some breeds of dogs, such as Poodles, commonly have problems. The anal sacs of obese dogs do not drain well, and thus these dogs are predisposed to recurrent problems. If a dog has several episodes of anal sac disease, the anal sacs can be removed surgically. It is the only way to permanently cure the problem.

Are there any complications of the