

The anal sacs lie adjacent to the rectum in dogs and cats. In patients where there is recurring or chronic ongoing irritation, impaction or infection of the glands, removal can be considered as a treatment method. Anal gland cancers are relatively rare and are also treated with anal gland removal. If this is the case, pre-operative blood work, X-rays and ultrasound are recommended to stage the severity of the disease before surgery.

Surgery:

The anal gland is removed entirely with its associated duct. This results in a wound to the side of the anus.

Post-Operative Care:

Wound Care

Your pet will have a wound to the side of their anus. Please check this area twice daily, there should not be any pain, swelling, redness or discharge from the wound. A buster collar should be used to prevent interference for the first 10-14 days after surgery. Exercise should also be restricted during this time.

Outcome

Outcomes are usually good following complete anal sac removal. If the gland has been removed because of a cancerous process, follow up monitoring and/ or chemotherapy may be recommended.

Risks and Complications

All surgeries have potential complications. Approximate 3-5% of patients develop a post-operative infection. Perianal irritation is usually transient. There is the risk of faecal incontinence, however this is very rare.

