

Mass Removal/ Lumpectomy



LITTLE CREEK
VETERINARY CLINIC

Lumps and bumps can be a normal part of your pet's life. However, occasionally the situation arises where your veterinarian has recommended that you get a lump, or multiple lumps removed. Below is a general overview of what this procedure involves.

REASONS TO REMOVE A LUMP

- The lump has changed in shape or grown rapidly since being noticed
- The lump has been sampled with a fine needle aspirate (FNA) and the cytology has come back inconclusive or potentially cancerous
- The lump is causing your pet pain or discomfort
- The lump is open or ruptured and is not healing on its own

WHAT THE PROCEDURE INVOLVES

- Placement of an IV catheter
- Administration of either a local anesthetic, sedation, or General Anesthetic (GA)
- Depends on multiple factors (see Sedation vs. GA infosheet)
- Shaving and preparing an area over and around the lump by removing the hair down to bare skin
- Surgically incising around the mass and removing it
- Surgically closing the area with sutures or staples
- +/- Sending tissue for histopathology

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS (DURING SURGERY AND/OR RECOVERY)

- Hemorrhage (excessive bleeding)
- Dehiscence (sutures come undone)
- Swelling/inflammation at the incision site
- Seroma (pocket of fluid)
- Infection
- Slow or delayed recovery/healing
- Incomplete removal of all the tissue associated with the mass (incomplete/dirty margins)

POTENTIAL ANESTHETIC COMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)

- Airway irritation
- Low blood pressure
- Hypothermia/hyperthermia
- Cardiovascular collapse
- Respiratory depression
- Gastric reflux
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Hypoxic brain damage
- Embolism
- Death

HISTOPATHOLOGY

Your veterinarian, no matter how skilled, is not able to diagnose a mass with 100% accuracy via gross examination (looking at it) alone. For this reason, we recommend having the mass sent to a laboratory for microscopic evaluation by a veterinary pathologist. The lump is analyzed to give the cells a classification and ultimately a diagnosis. Results are typically received in 7-10 working days following submission. Your veterinarian will call you to discuss results and start a treatment plan if needed.

AFTER CARE

Detailed instructions will be sent home with your pet the same day the procedure is completed. Suture/staple removal in 10-14 days after the procedure with one of our RVTs at no charge to you.