

Melbourne Animal Specialist Hospital (MASH) is pleased to offer **laparoscopic gastropexy and laparoscopic spey (ovariectomy)** as part of our minimally invasive surgery service.

These procedures represent a referral option for appropriately selected patients, particularly where **reduced surgical morbidity, faster recovery, or combined procedures** are desired.

We recognise that desexing and preventative care are core components of general practice. Our role is to **support you and your clients** where an advanced surgical approach may benefit the patient or align with client preferences.

Laparoscopic Gastropexy

Prophylactic gastropexy is a **risk-reduction procedure** aimed at preventing gastric volvulus in dogs predisposed to GDV.

It does not prevent gastric dilatation but significantly reduces the likelihood of life-threatening torsion.

Which Dogs Benefit Most?

Prophylactic gastropexy should be strongly considered in:

- > Giant breeds
- > Large, deep-chested breeds (*Weimaraners, Standard Poodles, German Shepherd Dogs, Setters, Dobermans*)
- > Dogs with a first-degree relative affected by GDV
- > Dogs undergoing elective spey or other abdominal surgery

In moderate-risk breeds, decision-making should be individualised based on conformation, family history, and owner preference.

Laparoscopic Spey (Ovariectomy)

Laparoscopic spey offers a **minimally invasive alternative** to traditional open desexing.

Particularly suited to:

- > Large and giant breed dogs
- > Clients seeking reduced postoperative discomfort and faster recovery
- > Deep-chested or higher-risk patients
- > Cases where a combined spey + gastropexy is planned

Combined Procedures

In large and at-risk breeds, laparoscopic spey and gastropexy can be performed concurrently, allowing:

- > A single anaesthetic event
- > Reduced overall recovery time
- > Streamlined patient care



Lap vs Open Gastropexy: What the Evidence Says

Both open and laparoscopic gastropexy provide **effective and durable fixation** when performed appropriately.

Laparoscopic approach:

- > Smaller incisions
- > Reduced soft tissue trauma
- > Typically less postoperative discomfort
- > Faster return to normal activity

Open approach:

- > Widely accessible
- > Excellent outcomes in experienced hands
- > Larger incision and greater tissue dissection

Current literature supports **comparable long-term efficacy** between techniques. The principal differences relate to **incision morbidity and recovery profile**, rather than fixation strength.

Guide Pricing (FY25/26)

To assist with client discussions, the following is a **general pricing guide**:

- > **Single procedure** (laparoscopic spey **or** laparoscopic gastropexy).....from \$2,900 – \$3,000
- > **Combined** (laparoscopic spey + gastropexy).....from \$3,300 – \$3,400

Final costs may vary depending on individual patient needs and peri-operative requirements.

At MASH

- > Surgical consultation
- > Laparoscopic gastropexy and/or laparoscopic spey (or routine castration where indicated)
- > Same-day discharge in most cases
- > Concise operative report and discharge summary provided
- > Ongoing care returned to the referring veterinarian

Our aim is **seamless collaboration** and preservation of the **primary veterinarian–client relationship**.

We are committed to providing a **supportive referral service**, complementing the care you already deliver.

If you would like to discuss a case or suitability for referral, our team is always happy to assist.