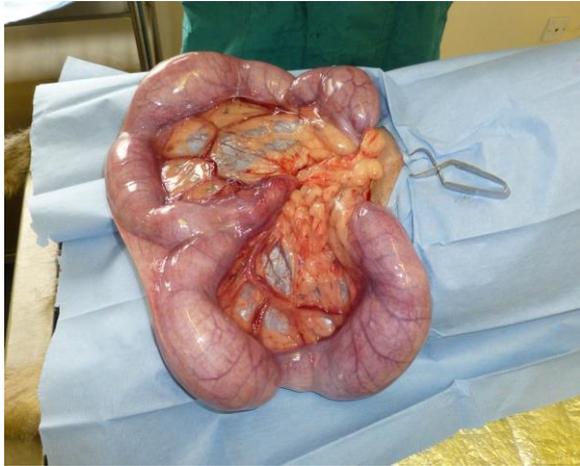


# *West Lakeland Veterinary Group*



**Intra-operative view - Pyometra**

## ***What is a Pyometra?***

Pyometra is an infection of the womb/uterus most common in the dog .

## ***What causes the infection?***

The infection is caused by hormone imbalances in the bitch following a season. This generally occurs 4-6 weeks post season and is more common in elderly un-neutered bitches. The bacteria involved is generally E-coli which occurs naturally in the faeces of dogs.

## ***How likely is my bitch to get a pyometra?***

Studies show approx 1 in 4 entire bitches will develop a pyometra at some point in their lives.

## ***What signs will my dog show?***

Bitches tend to present with :

- Lethargy
- Anorexia
- Fever
- Vomiting/ Diarrhoea
- Vulval Discharge (open only)

## ***What is the treatment for pyometra?***

Untreated this condition can lead to septicaemia and death. The treatment of choice for pyometra is surgery to remove the infected uterus as antibiotics alone are unlikely to cure the condition. This operation is similar to normal neutering however carries a much higher risk of complication due to infection and bleeding.

Your bitch will almost certainly be hospitalised for a period and treated with intravenous fluids and antibiotics. Generally 95 percent of surgically treated cases will go on to make a full recovery.

Other treatments involve the use of prostaglandins in order to try and treat this condition medically. This approach is only appropriate in certain circumstances and the condition is often prone to recurrence.

*How do I prevent pyometra?*

If you are not going to breed from your dog neutering provides a reliable way of making sure your dog does not suffer from pyometra. Neutering your bitch early in life also has other health benefits including reduction in the level of mammary carcinoma (dog breast cancer)

**If you are concerned about canine pyometra or wish information on canine neutering please contact the surgery**