

Range Animal Hospital

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Salivary Mucocele

- These are somewhat common surgeries performed on dogs in our practice. We believe that they are indicated for all parotid/submandibular mucocele cases.
- Diagnosis is via a fine needle aspiration of thick, mucoid fluid from a flocculent swelling in the submandibular or anterior ventral area of the neck. If the lesion is not overtly present on the left or right, the area should be clipped in an attempt to verify its origin.
- On rare occasions, the appropriate side for operation is not certain, and if the best decision fails to identify the correct side, the remaining side must also be operated. This has never happened in our practice.
- In extremely rare circumstances, the operation fails despite the affected side being obvious. Again, approaching the remaining side is necessary. Again, this has not occurred in our experience.
- Excision of the parotid and submandibular salivary gland is commonly curative. While the dissection is tedious, it is most often accomplished without incident and with relative ease.
- No attempt to drain the accumulated fluid is needed.
- We do these procedures on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays as our schedule allows. Cases typically have one night of hospitalization.
- We will coordinate postoperative aftercare with your hospital. Typical care includes:
 - A 4-5 day postoperative incision check.
 - A 10-12 day suture removal.
- Uncomplicated cases are typically \$900 to \$1100. [January 2011]. Ask for an estimate.