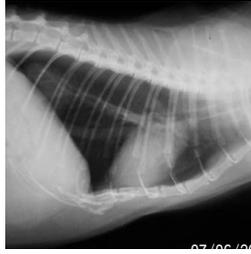


**Range Animal Hospital****E6116 US Highway 2  
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## Diaphragmatic Hernia

- This is a common sequela in the dog and cat to hit by car trauma.
- Less commonly this can be a congenital defect.
- Traumatic events can generally be repaired with suture closure of the defect. Congenital hernias may require an implant to repair missing tissue; Marlex and Gortex are the most commonly used prosthetic fabrics.
- All animals that suffer a car accident deserve at minimum a lateral chest radiograph. Look carefully to identify that the left, right and common ventral areas of the cura are identifiable and intact. Additionally follow the convex surface of the liver, and observe for loops of bowel in the thorax.
- Plain radiographs are generally diagnostic, and identify the possibility of pneumothorax, hemothorax, and pulmonary contusions.
- Diaphragmatic hernia, pneumothorax, & hemo thorax are surgical emergencies and should be treated as such.
- Rarely ventilatory support is needed, but hemodynamic support and supplemental oxygen is very often a preoperative must.
- While immediate surgery is often necessary, careful evaluation of the patient's possible multi-trauma is needed, and a continuing therapeutic plan should be considered before any treatment is begun. Realistic goals and costs must be considered and understood.
- If the need is due to acute life threatening respiratory embarrassment and/or multi trauma, call 24/7 with your request for referral.
- Surgery is done daily as needed as the case may require. The patient typically has a 2 to 5 night 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.
- Please send any preoperative laboratory tests and radiographs.
- Uncomplicated cases are \$1500 to \$2400 [January 2011]. Difficult cases with protracted post-operative recoveries will be representatively more, as will be cases with multi-trauma. Ask for an estimate.