Permanent Tracheostomy in the Dog

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Indications
• Severe upper airway obstruction
  – Laryngeal paralysis
  – Laryngeal collapse
• Laryngeal or tracheal neoplasia
• Trauma

Surgery
• Neck slightly extended
• Ventral midline approach
• Split sternohyoideus muscles

Surgery
• Horizontal mattress suture between muscles, under trachea
• Pulls muscle to side and lifts trachea

Surgery

Surgery
Closure

- Monofilament, non-absorbable
- Cutting needle
- Do corners first
- Accurate apposition

Postop Care

- Keep stoma clean
- No collar
- Monitor for respiratory complications
- Monitor for stricture

Can I go swimming?

Permanent tracheostomy: perioperative and long-term data from 34 cases (Hedlung, et al., JAAHA, 1988)
- 23 dogs, 11 cats
- Results:
  - Good: 74%
  - Fair: 26%
  - Poor: 0%
- Only major complication: skin fold occlusion