

Umbilical Hernia

The umbilical cord is the tube, which attaches the puppy fetus to the mama through the placenta. [A hernia](#) is a hole or a too large opening in the body.

Umbilical hernias are the most common hernia in canines. An umbilical hernia is a bulging outward or protrusion of the abdominal lining (belly) through an area around the [belly button](#). In canine's this may involve part of the body fat or intestines coming through the abdominal wall in the navel area. (The navel area is located in the mid-abdominal area.) Umbilical hernias more commonly consist of fatty tissue protruding through the abdominal wall.

Umbilical hernias, in canines, can be inherited. Another cause is the mama dog biting off the umbilical cord too closely or roughly while whelping the puppy.

Veterinarians easily discover an umbilical hernia upon physical exam of the puppy. It is noted that an umbilical hernia may not be immediately noticeable. The abdominal contents may not protrude consistently – they may reduce spontaneously or when the area is pressed on.

The symptom of an umbilical hernia is a soft swelling in the navel (umbilical) area. It is not considered critical unless the opening is large enough to allow organs or intestines to protrude. Most umbilical hernias are not serious and the opening is usually no larger than the tip of an ink pen. However, to an untrained eye, alarm may arise when the amount of fat dropping through appears. Small umbilical hernias have been noted to close spontaneously by the age of 6 months.

Inguinal hernia

An inguinal hernia is located in the groin area on the inner part of the rear leg of a canine. It is a skin covered bulging over the groin. Inguinal hernias can be on both sides (Bilateral) or on just one side.

An inguinal hernia develops as a result of defect at birth as well as trauma. In female canines – she may develop an inguinal hernia during her pregnancy as a result of the abdominal walls stretching to allow room for the puppies. In puppies, inguinal hernias usually develop prior to the age of 3 months.

Most inguinal hernias may shrink and heal on their own – others may need surgical repair. This repair is usually done at about six months of age (at the same time as a neuter or spay) thus combining the two to reduce the cost.

Inguinal hernias are common in many different breeds of canines.