# Animal Welfare- Intestinal Surgery

* Because of the abdominal pain and state of shock, affected animals will be prone to move constantly or even lay down.
* An unnecessary laparotomy could be harmful to a critical patient that could have been medically treated.
* Before making the decision to favor a surgical or medical approach, information must be gathered and the case approached in a logical manner:
  + (1) review the possible causes of abdominal pain relevant to the particular case;
  + (2) recognize the indications for immediate surgery;
  + (3) determine if surgery is an option given the cost, facilities, and surgical abilities;
  + (4) establish medical treatment before or during surgery;
  + (5) if surgery is postponed, determine in advance a precise time and list criteria to be monitored to help decision-making; and
  + (6) establish and present to the client a most realistic prognosis and cost estimate. A systematic approach based on adequate signalment and history, complete physical examination, and judicious choice of ancillary tests are the tools available to clinicians.