

**Evaluation of a laparoscopic abdominal simulator assessment to test readiness for laparoscopic ovariectomy in live dogs.**

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**Objective:** To predict readiness for laparoscopic ovariectomy of live dogs on the basis of performance on a high-fidelity laparoscopic abdominal simulator

**Methods:** After a standardized laparoscopic training course, each participant performed a laparoscopic ovariectomy with a simulator. This performance was scored in real-time by two evaluators using a rubric. Participants achieving a score of 112 of 160 performed a laparoscopic ovariectomy in a live dog, supervised by an instructor in the room. Two evaluators scored video recordings of each procedure using the rubric. Participants' opinions about the simulator were collected with a survey.

**Results:** All participants scored above the threshold (range, 126-151). All participants agreed that the simulator should be used to assess trainee readiness prior to surgery in a live dog.

**Conclusion:** This simulator and scoring system can be used in laparoscopic training programs to assess readiness for progression to the operative setting.