

Burning a path to better efficiency: Electrocautery boosts surgeries for Town and Country Animal Hospital

Like most general practices, the veterinarians of Town and Country Animal Hospital perform a wide variety of surgical procedures. After 6 years of business, they just about reached their max capacity for weekly surgeries with demand still high. “We’d be booked two weeks out,” says medical director Dr. Thomas Haverty. “It’s a good problem to have, but there’s some surgeries you just have to fit in sooner and we’d need to refer them out.”

With no more weekdays to add, maximizing efficiency became the focus. “Time management in surgery can always be a challenge. We do 4-5 procedures a day, so we have to use every tool possible to make procedures efficient while still maintaining quality and a good standard of care.” Says Dr. Haverty. But even after shoring up other components, it still didn’t seem like enough. “We made great strides in efficiency already by having extra monitoring equipment and building our surgical team up enough to reduce turnover time in between procedures,” says Dr Haverty, “But we needed to find a tool that could reduce actual surgery time and still keep the standard quality we are known for.”

Town and Country’s team agreed on purchasing a surgical electrocautery unit from DRE Veterinary. Dr Haverty had seen one in use by a mobile surgeon visiting the practice and could see clear benefits. “Choosing a cautery just made sense,” he says, “Cauterizing bleeding vessels during surgery is a lot faster than either repeated blotting or tying the vessels off. And for growth removals or orthopedic procedures especially, this can save valuable time and make the surgeon less frustrated.”

The DRE ASG-120 boasts a high level of safety without additional features less needed by the general practitioner. The controls are color-coordinated to allow change of function with ease.

Foot-pedal operation allows for seamless use by the surgeon without need for additional assistance. “The ASG 120 was a good fit for our practice,” says Dr. Haverty. “The 120 Watt output meets our needs for power and keeps it more affordable than other higher wattage units. The unit is very versatile with several different features and settings, yet is simple to use. We were able to unpack it and use it same day.”

After employing the ASG-120, Dr. Haverty and his team found the extra boost they needed.

On average, they reported freeing an extra 40-50 minutes per day, translating into an additional procedure and at least a couple hundred dollars in revenue. According to Dr. Haverty, the practice hardly felt a financial impact from purchasing the unit. “With the additional procedure per day that we’re able to accommodate, the unit practically paid for itself after only 2-3 weeks.” He said.

“It’s made our surgeries faster, cleaner, our patients have less pain and inflammation from bruising, and our revenue stream has increased. There’s hardly any detractors to purchasing this unit. It’s simple to get started with.”

Dr. Thomas Haverty, Medical Director, Town and Country Animal Hospital

But cost and efficiency are not the only considerations in veterinary practice. Dr. Haverty sees great benefits for his patients as well. “Where there’s less bleeding, there’s less post-op complications. Less swelling and discomfort. My patients recover more quickly.”

The DRE ASG-120 electrocautery has become an invaluable asset to Town and Country. Dr. Haverty says the veterinary team can now hardly remember a time without it. “It’s made our surgeries faster, cleaner, our patients have less pain and inflammation from bruising, and our revenue stream has increased. There’s hardly any detractors to purchasing this unit. It’s simple to get started with.”

This case study was developed independently as a sample and was not requested by or written expressly for, DRE Veterinary or their parent company, Avante Health Solutions.