* As with any surgery, complications may arise. Even though rare, anesthetic death can occur. With the use of modern anesthetic protocols and extensive monitoring devices (blood pressure, EKG, pulse oxymetry, inspiratory and expiratory carbon dioxide levels, and respiration rate), the risk of problems with anesthesia is minimal.
* Infection is also an unusual complication as strict sterile technique is used during the surgery and antibiotics are administered.
* Seroma formation or fluid accumulation under the skin incision although uncommon can also occur. This problem in general will resolve with time. Occasionally the seroma or fluid that has build up may require draining.
* Peritonitis is a very serious problem that fortunately does not occur very often. The most common cause of infection of the abdominal cavity is due to leakage of bowel contents through the enterotomy or anastomosis site. If this problem is to occur clinical signs become evident 2 to 5 days after surgery. Emergency surgery is needed if this occurs.
* Intussusception can occur following intestinal surgery. This problem is where the small intestine telescopes on itself. In this situation another surgery is needed to correct the problem.
* If a cancerous portion of intestine has been removed, recurrence is possible especially if the tumor is malignant. Spread of cancer to another location (metastasis) may also occur