**Surgical Approach to Colic**

Advantages:

* Direct visualization and correction of life-threatening causes of colic
* Allows for complete exploration of the entire abdomen, not only correction of the lesion
* Biopsies can be obtained in cases of chronic or recurrent colic
* General anesthesia allows for a controlled environment for both the patient and the surgeon

Disadvantages:

* Exploratory celiotomy requires general anesthesia
* Requires post-operative rest (2–3 months from work)
* Requires advanced training for the veterinary surgeon