

Anesthetic/Surgical Procedure Information

Dear Client,

Your pet has been scheduled for an anesthetic/surgical procedure in the near future. In our attempt to assist and educate our clients, we have put together this packet to make the day of the procedure as easy and stress-free as possible.

Please read all the enclosed information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. On your pet's procedure day, we will require you to review and sign an admissions form, estimate for services and anesthetic release form. At that time we will review the procedure that is going to be performed and discuss some options you may choose to have done while your pet is here for the scheduled procedure.

We will require a phone number where you can be reached the day of the procedure. If we cannot reach you on the day of the procedure it may result in postponement of the procedure.

The night before your pet's procedure:

- Withhold all food and treats after 10:00pm the night before the procedure
- Water may be left down throughout the night
- Pick up the water first thing in the morning
- If you are currently administering any medications, vitamins or injections, WITHHOLD the morning dose unless otherwise instructed by the doctor. If you are not sure if you should give medication, please call us.

Your pet needs to be here at the hospital between 7:30am and 8:30am the morning of the surgery, unless a specific appointment time has been made in advance. Please allow 10 to 15 minutes to complete the necessary paperwork. At the time of drop off, our team will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Upon admission, our veterinary technician will take your pet to the treatment area. If we are running pre-anesthetic blood tests, our technician will collect the blood sample and run the test prior to the procedure. The doctor will perform a pre anesthetic exam. If blood test results or pre procedure exam by the doctor show any abnormalities, the doctor will contact you at the number on the authorization form to discuss the results and any changes to the plans because of the results.

When your pet's procedure is completed, the doctor or technician will contact you at the phone number you listed to let you know your pet's procedure is completed and to schedule a discharge appointment. When you arrive for your discharge appointment, our technician will go over home care instructions as well as discuss any medication that is being sent home. After the discharge appointment, the technician will have a receptionist help you take care of charges. After everything is taken care of, the technician will bring your pet to you and assist you getting your pet to your car if needed.

We hope surgery day will be as stress free as possible. Remember, our team understands that surgery can be an anxious time and we are always available to answer any and all questions concerning the upcoming procedure.

Pre-Anesthetic Blood Testing Information

Our greatest concern is the well being of your pet. Before putting your pet under anesthesia, we require a current physical examination (within the past year). We can also complete this examination the day of the procedure, if needed.

Pre-Anesthetic Blood testing is required on all pets over 7 years of age and highly recommended in pets under the age of 7 year of age to maximize patient safety.

The Pre-Anesthetic Blood test helps alert our doctors to the presence of dehydration, anemia, diabetes and/or kidney or liver disease that could complicate the procedure. These conditions may not be detected without pre-anesthetic blood testing and when undetected can lead to complications in the anesthetic procedure. These tests are similar to those your own physician would run if you were to undergo anesthesia. In addition, these tests may be useful in the future as a baseline if your pet's health changes.

The admission form you sign will offer pre-anesthetic blood work.

Our in-house Pre-Anesthetic profile includes:

PCV (Anemia), BUN and Creatinine (Kidney), ALKP and ALT (Liver), Glucose (Sugar), and Total Protein (Dehydration).

Some pets require more in-depth blood testing sent to the reference lab. Tests sent to the reference lab require 24 hours for results, so testing in advance of the day of the procedure is required. The doctor will advise you if a more in-depth blood test is appropriate.

General Surgical Information

Anesthetic Procedures:

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications and inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimum levels of anesthesia that are safe for your pet. Each pet's anesthetic protocol is developed specifically for that pet taking into consideration age, health and any specific breed sensitivities.

For most procedures, your pet is induced into anesthesia with an injection and then intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea or wind pipe) and maintained on an inhalant anesthetic (isoflurane.) This will ensure that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times and protects against aspiration of any fluids into the lungs.

For short/ noninvasive procedures that require just sedation, an injectable sedative that can be reversed once the procedure is completed.

Monitoring & Pain Management:

We place the utmost emphasis on monitoring anesthetized patients. This enables us to catch and react to early changes in the anesthetized patient's status to decrease the chances of serious complications.

A veterinary technician/assistant is with your pet continuously from beginning of anesthesia to recovery monitoring the patient's vital signs including heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, ecg, oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in the blood and depth of anesthesia.

Our hospital strongly believes in compassionate, quality medical care for our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain management either prior to or after the surgical procedure. Additionally, pain medication may be prescribed to go home. Additional information will be given at discharge. We hope this program will reduce any discomfort experienced and aid in a quicker recovery.

Intravenous Catheterization & Fluids:

We highly recommend the placement of an IV catheter and use of IV fluids during all anesthetic procedures. This allows us to have quick, available access to the circulatory system (blood) in case of an unforeseen emergency. The fluids help provide support to the circulatory system by maintaining adequate blood pressure in the patient and prevent dehydration which improves the safety of the procedure and aids in a quicker recovery from anesthesia.

IV Catheter and Fluids is recommended for all pets but is required for pets over the age of 7 years and for some procedures regardless of the pet's age.

It is important for you to understand that there is always a risk of anesthetic and surgical complications anytime these procedures are performed. We strive to take the highest quality care of your pet and take all the added precautions you allow to avoid potential problems. Thank you for entrusting your pet to us.