

IMPORTANT PRE-ANESTHESIA INFORMATION AND PRE-ADMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

PRE-ANESTHESIA

Whether your pet is scheduled for a dental prophylaxis or major surgery, anesthesia will be required. We use the utmost care and caution during your pet's anesthetic procedure, including performing a Pre-Anesthetic Examination on each pet before procedures. However, it is important for you to understand that there is always a risk of anesthetic and surgical complications. We use added precautions to avoid potential problems. Just as pre-anesthetic bloodwork and IV catheter placement with fluid therapy are the standards in human medicine when anesthesia is required, we also include these services for your pet. When the proper precautions are taken, anesthesia is a very safe process, and this extra measure of safety is important to all of us. Please review the following information and recommendations to allow you to make the best decision regarding your pet.

IV (Intravenous) Catheter/Fluid Therapy: IV fluid therapy is used to support your pet during the anesthesia process. While under the effects of anesthesia, animals are prone to hypothermia and drops in blood pressure. By giving your pet intravenous fluids, we can regulate its body temperature, as well as support the body systems, by maintaining adequate blood pressure. Fluid therapy also helps to reduce stress on the liver and kidneys which are responsible for processing anesthesia from the body, thereby allowing for a quicker recovery time. In addition to the benefits of fluid administration, having an IV catheter in place allows immediate access to the blood stream should the unlikely need for emergency drugs arise.

Monitoring and Pain Management: Monitoring of patients during anesthesia consists of a veterinary technician or assistant being with your pet during the entire duration of the procedure. In addition, we use a computerized/digital monitor that constantly records heart rate, pulse rate, oxygen levels and respiration. All patients undergoing anesthesia will receive pain management before, during and after the surgery/procedure. Additionally, pain medication is usually prescribed to be given at home. Pain management reduces discomfort and aids in faster recovery.

PLEASE READ AND COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING PRE-ADMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Feed your pet as usual the evening prior to admission.
2. **Withhold all food and treats from 9 PM forward the evening prior to admission.**
3. Do not withhold water.
4. Current vaccinations are required for hospital admissions.
5. If you are currently administering any medications, vitamins, or injections, please contact us for instructions on whether to give the medication prior to the surgery/procedure.
6. Allow your pet to urinate and have a bowel movement prior to arrival at the clinic.
7. Bring your pet either in a carrier or on a leash.
8. Plan for 15-20 minutes to review the procedure and complete and sign the authorization form.
9. If you are having someone else bring your pet for admission, please contact us in advance to arrange a time for you to complete the admitting paperwork prior to the surgery day.

Please call us prior to this date if there are any additional procedures you may wish to have performed while your pet is in the hospital. There are several procedures that are sometimes easier on the pet while sedated. These include placement of a microchip, having anal glands expressed, nails trimmed, ears cleaned, heartworm test and a fecal exam. Vaccines can be given after your pet has fully recovered from anesthesia

ON THE DAY OF YOUR PET'S SURGICAL OR DENTAL PROCEDURE, AS PART OF ADMISSION:

1. You will review/approve the treatment plan for your pet
 2. We will address any additional questions or concerns you may have and provide you with estimated costs of the anticipated services.
 3. We **MUST** be able to reach you during your pet's surgery/procedure.
 4. Please provide at least one phone number should we need to contact you or someone with authority to make decisions concerning your pet.
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DISCHARGE APPOINTMENT:

1. Dental, and many surgery patients, will be released the same afternoon, after we are satisfied that they have appropriately recovered from their procedure.
2. Please arrive at your scheduled time for your pet's discharge.
3. When you arrive, your billing will be ready for your review and payment.
4. Your discharge appointment will last approximately 15 minutes, which allows time to review your pet's procedure, answer questions and give you important home-care instructions.
5. Your pet's health and safety are our utmost concern. Please follow the home-care instructions.
6. If you have small children at home, be careful not to leave your pet alone with the child even for just a few minutes. Remember, all animals recovering from general anesthesia may react unpredictably for several days.
7. If your pet is released with a protective cone/collar, it is vital you do not remove it before the timeframe shown in the home-care instructions. Pets do not like the collar and will want it removed, but you must leave it on. Too many times, pet owners feel understandably bad for the pet and remove it too soon, which generally leads to the pet tearing out the sutures.