

SURGICAL INFORMATION PACKET- what to expect

Dear Client,

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

In addition to this letter, you will find that the following information has been enclosed:

1. Pre-Anesthetic Blood Testing Information Form
2. Surgical Information Sheet Please read carefully all the enclosed information. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us.

On your pets' surgery day, we require you to review and sign an **Authorization Form** which allows you to choose optional services.

We require a phone number(s) where you can be reached surgery day.

Failure to be reached on the day of the procedure may result in postponement of the surgery.

The night before your pet's surgery...

- **Withhold all food and treats after 8:00pm.**
- **Water may be left down after this time period.**
- **If you are currently administering any medications, vitamins and/or injections, continue all doses unless otherwise instructed by the doctor.**

Please make arrangements for your pet to be dropped off on the morning of scheduled surgery, unless other arrangements have been made in advance (patient is dropped off before surgery day). At time of drop off, our team will be happy to answer any questions/concerns and collect the enclosed/completed **Authorization Form**.

Our veterinary nurse will escort your pet to the surgical prepping area to wait for their surgery. If you have elected any of the recommended blood tests, our nurse will collect all blood samples and tests prior to surgery. If any questions arise, the doctor may contact you at the number on the Authorization Form.

When your pet is awaking from surgery, the veterinary nurse will call you at the number(s) provided to update you on your pet's status and to set up a time for discharge. Most surgeries stay overnight and are checked over the next morning before returning home. Dental cleanings and other minor surgeries and sedations typically go home the same day. For most surgeries, rest and leash walks are recommended until sutures are removed in 10 days. For feline digital amputation (de-claw), patients will need to use "yesterdays news" litter for roughly 2 weeks post surgery, in addition to no jumping. When you arrive to take your pet home at the appointed time, the veterinary nurse will go over all discharge orders verbally and give you a written copy. If you do not understand any instructions, please do not hesitate to ask them to go over them one more time. Full payment is expected when your pet is discharged from our hospital.

We hope surgery day will be a pleasant experience. Remember, our team knows surgery can be an anxious time and we are always available to answer any and all questions concerning the upcoming procedure. We look forward to serving you and your pet on the upcoming surgery day and years to come.

PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOOD TESTING PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Our greatest concern is the well being of your pet. Before putting your pet under anesthesia, we routinely perform a full physical examination.

We also highly recommend and sometimes require that a **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** be performed on all pets' undergoing anesthesia to maximize patient safety.

The **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** helps alert our surgeon to the presence of dehydration, anemia, infection, diabetes and/or kidney or liver disease that could complicate the procedure. These conditions **may not be detected without a pre-anesthetic profile** thus not allowing for the most appropriate and safest anesthetic regime to be administered. These tests are similar to those your own physician would run if you were to undergo anesthesia. In addition, these tests may be useful if your pet's health changes, to develop faster, more accurate diagnoses and treatments.

**State of the art equipment enables us to perform the pre-anesthetic blood profile at our hospital and we are committed to making this technology available to our patients.*

Blood work on the day of surgery includes:

- **Quantitative Blood Count (CBC):** PCV (Anemia), White Blood Cell Count (Infection) & Red Blood Cell Count (Anemia/Bleeding Disorder), Platelet Count (Clotting Disorder)

- **Profile:** BUN and Creatinine (Kidney), ALKP and ALT (Liver), Glucose (Sugar), and Total Protein (Dehydration).

Our feline owners will see a **FelV/FIV Test** option. We highly recommend this test be performed on all feline patients at least once in their lives because Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (Feline Aids) are viruses for which no cure exists. If your pet goes outside, we recommend administering the Feline Leukemia vaccine as well. Please ask questions if you would like to learn more about Feline Leukemia and Feline Aids.

The **Authorization Form** you will sign on your pet's surgery date will offer pre-anesthetic blood work. Sometimes with sick patients, or patients over 7yrs old, the veterinarian will recommend a full panel be sent to the lab before the day of surgery which, in addition to pre-anesthetic tests, also includes a thyroid check, electrolytes, and complete urinalysis. You may elect to decline the recommended pre-anesthetic blood tests at this time but request that we proceed with the procedure. We realize surgery and anesthesia are scary for both the owner and patient and we attempt to make surgery day as safe and comfortable for all involved. The physical examination and blood work done prior to any surgical procedure allows us to best minimize anesthetic and surgical risks and maximize patient safety.

If you have any questions or hesitations about the scheduled procedure, please do not hesitate to call us to discuss any aspect of the upcoming procedure.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Monitoring & Pain Management-Monitoring of patients during anesthesia is done in two ways. First, a veterinary nurse is with your pet continuously from beginning of anesthesia to recovery. Second, we have a computerized monitor that records heart rate, pulse rate, oxygen levels, and respiration. Our clinic strongly believes in compassionate, quality, medical care for our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain management on the day of surgery. Additionally, pain medication may be prescribed to take home to elevate any additional pain and discomfort your pet may have on the days following surgery. Additional information will be given when the tech or doctor releases your pet from our hospital. 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 and prevent dehydration, as well as aid in a quicker recovery from anesthesia.

Microchip

We recommend all pets to have a microchip implant to ensure their timely return if they were ever lost! If your pet is found and is taken to a shelter or veterinary facility, they will be able to scan the chip and be reunited with their family! This is offered at any time, but the best time is while they are under anesthesia. We use Res-Q brand microchips which are used world-wide. There is no monthly or yearly fees, just a one time implant charge and you're done. The only responsibility you have is to go online and register your contact information with the chip number, and update it any time your information changes. If you have questions or concerns about this procedure please contact us for more information.

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.