

Client:

Patient:

Admission time is between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

No Food after 8:00 PM; water is OK

Health Screening

As you know, your pet is scheduled for an upcoming procedure that requires general anesthesia. We are looking forward to providing him/her with the best possible care. To provide that care, we recommend pre-anesthetic blood work for your pet prior to placing him/her under anesthesia. We require a broader evaluation be done for animals over eight years of age because as in humans, the incidence of metabolic disease increases with age. It is important that you understand a pre-anesthetic profile does not guarantee the absence of anesthetic complications. **This health screen may greatly reduce the risk of complications as well as provide a valuable baseline for the future as we work together to manage your pet's health.** The specific test will be discussed and determined with you on the date of the procedure. While the choice is yours, we feel strongly that a pre-anesthetic profile is very important to your pet's health. We encourage you to authorize us to perform the tests.

IV Fluid Therapy

Occasionally, underlying medical conditions and/or anesthetic and surgical situations can result in certain undesirable metabolic changes including heart rate, respiratory rate, or decreases of blood pressure. **Placement of an intravenous catheter and IV fluid administration is one protective measure that we can offer during your pet's procedure.**

Pain Medication

Pets can't tell us when they hurt, so it can be difficult to know when they are in pain. But since the perception of pain is similar for humans and pets, we assume any condition or injury capable of causing pain in humans is also capable of causing pain in pets. Pain is more than an unpleasant sensation. If left untreated, it can interfere with the healing process. Our practice understands the importance of pain management and offers effective methods to meet your pet's specific needs. Administration of medication will be included if your pet's dental procedure involves dental extractions or soft tissue surgery.

Anesthesia and Infection

All surgical procedures carry inherent risks. Among these are complications associated with anesthesia and infection. We try to minimize potential problems by completing a thorough physical examination and doing blood work to make sure there are not significant underlying problems that would necessitate putting off surgery or altering our anesthetic plan.

Most animals without underlying organ problems do well under anesthesia, but some animals do have problems that we cannot anticipate. Animals with significant metabolic or traumatic problems carry greater risks. These problems can be as minor as prolonged recovery or as serious as death. Other problems include cough (from irritation from the tube in the throat or lung irritation) and intestinal problems (not eating very well or diarrhea). We closely monitor animals under anesthesia so that we can support them if there is a problem during the procedure. We routinely monitor respiratory rate, heart rate and oxygen saturation. If deemed necessary, animals are on intravenous fluids to support their blood pressure.

Anytime an incision is made, infection is a potential complication. For most major surgical procedures we give preoperative antibiotic injections. Then, depending on the case, some animals will go home on oral antibiotics. It is important to observe the incision daily to make sure signs of infection are not developing. Clinical symptoms such as swelling and drainage suggest infection.