

WHAT TO EXPECT ON SURGERY DAY

Ensuring each pet's comfort and safety, as well as informing and educating our clients, is very important to us. Below is information that pertains to precautions we take, instructions for you, and some things to expect with every anesthetic procedure.

PRE-SURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Food & Water

The night prior to your pet's procedure, we ask that you withhold food after 10pm and do not feed or offer water to your pet on the morning of the procedure. Water is fine overnight, as long as it is offered in small amounts only.

Admissions

- We prefer that surgery patients be admitted to our clinic between 7:45 and 8:30 am. This allows us the balance of the day to prepare for and perform the procedure, as well as to monitor the full recovery of each patient.
- Please allow some time (usually about 20-30 minutes) for the check in process to occur. We admit on a first-come, first-served basis and require some discussion and signing of release forms. This is also a time to discuss any questions that you may have.

A FEW THINGS THAT ALL SURGICAL PATIENTS RECEIVE:

- Pre-operative doctor exam: The doctor will perform a comprehensive physical exam prior to surgery. This exam will assist the doctor in assuring that your pet is healthy and a good candidate for the procedure.
- Pre-anesthesia blood testing: This is required in order to ensure optimal anesthetic safety. It tests the functions of vital organs that play a role in anesthesia recovery, such as the liver and kidneys. It may also uncover potential hidden disease that could increase the risk associated with anesthesia. The cost of the testing required may vary based upon the age of the pet.
- IV catheter and perio-operative fluids: An IV catheter is placed in order to administer the safest and most balanced anesthesia possible. It also allows us to administer fluids throughout the procedure to assist in maintaining healthy blood pressure and promote faster recovery. Note: your pet will be shaved in order to place the catheter antiseptically.
- Prescription medications specific to your pet's need: This almost always includes appropriate pain control medication(s). In some instances, antibiotics are required. Prescription costs are additional and dependent of your pet's individual need.

Common Additional Findings in Spay/Neuter Procedures that Require Attention and Additional Charges, if Discovered

(If any such conditions are found, you will be alerted prior to their correction):

- **Estrus:** This is when a female dog is in heat. As a result, the spay surgery is slightly more complicated, and a surcharge is added to cover the extra procedure time.
- **Cryptorchidism:** This is when a testicle has not descended into the scrotum as it normally should. When present, this condition requires a completely different surgical procedure and may result in additional procedure fees. However, correction of the problem is very important, as the consequences of not removing cryptorchid testicles are potentially life threatening.
- **Retained deciduous teeth:** This is when a puppy or kitten still has baby teeth that should have come out earlier in life but were retained. Left untreated, these will lead to disease of the surrounding adult teeth and gums.

AFTER SURGERY:

- You will receive a call from the doctor in the later part of the day after your pet has fully recovered from the procedure. The doctor will discuss the procedure and any individual needs of your pet. You will also be informed of when your pet will be ready for discharge.
- Upon discharge, the doctor or technician will go over discharge instructions with you in person and answer any questions that you may have. Please allow at least 20-30 minutes for this to occur.
- You will then be asked to schedule either a three (3) or seven (7) day recheck. This is to allow our staff to make sure the incision site is healing properly. This recheck exam is complimentary and free of charge.