

Surgical Information

You will be asked to sign a copy of the Surgical Authorization when you drop your pet off for surgery. Please read this through and have any questions ready for the doctor or technician.

All pets admitted for an anesthetic procedure must be fasted from 7 pm the night before admission, have water withheld from 12 am the night before admission, and arrive at our office between 7-8 am the morning of the scheduled procedure.

For admission into the hospital ward, all pets should be current on the core vaccinations (dog: rabies, dh1ppc, kennel cough; cat: rabies, dist-rhino, feline bordetella) and have had a complete blood panel performed within the previous 6 months. In addition, dogs must have a current negative heartworm test on file. If any of these requirements have not been met, we shall update them upon admission.

IV fluid therapy is administered to all pets undergoing anesthesia in order to maintain hydration, kidney function and to help prevent vascular shock. Therefore, your pet will have a small shaved area most probably on its front leg where the IV catheter will be placed.

The Laser is available for all surgical procedures. It is standard operating procedure for all spays, neuters and declaws, and is an option for all other surgeries. The Laser is typically not needed for dental procedures.

Pain medication is sent home with most surgical procedures. There are a few procedures, such as a routine dental procedure without extractions, which are typically not painful during recovery and therefore do not need comfort medications.

For dental procedures, we will ask for an immediate contact number so that we may alert you of any needed extractions or procedures. Your pet will be under anesthetic when we call, so please have this number available and the phone nearby while your pet is in the hospital.

Depending on the procedure, your pet will either be released after 3 pm the day of the procedure or after 9 am the following day. Please be ready to set an appointment for the discharge so that you do not have to wait an overlong time for release instructions. If the person picking the pet up will not be the person dropping off, please be sure to discuss this so that the person dropping off can schedule the discharge.

Unless otherwise specified, do not give any medications on the morning of the procedure. Exceptions to this rule are Phenobarbital and/or Potassium Bromide.

If there are any other services that you would like performed while your pet is here, please bring a list so that we can get everything coordinated. Examples would be nails trimmed, anal gland expression, ear cleaning, HomeAgain chip placement, or dispensing Heartworm or Flea prevention.

Remember, you will need to meet with the doctor upon admission; be sure allow yourself enough time to do so. Typical admissions take approximately 15 minutes.