

Surgical Information Packet

Dear Client,

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

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

- Pre-anesthetic blood testing information form
- Surgical information sheet

Please carefully read all the enclosed information. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact us. On the day of your pet's surgery, we **require** you to review and sign a **surgical consent form**, as well as an **estimate** outlining the procedure. This form will allow you to choose optional services if you so desire. This form is not included in this packet, but will be provided to you at our office prior to admitting your pet for services.

Upon the day of surgery, we require a phone number(s) to where you will be easily reachable. **Failure to be reached on the day of the procedure may result in postponement of the surgery.**

The night before your pet's surgery please do the following:

- Withhold all food and treats after 10:00p
- Your pet may have access to water up until they are dropped off the morning of surgery

Please make arrangements to have your pet dropped off the morning of their procedure between 7:30am and 8am, unless other arrangements have been made in advance. New clients are required to have a pre-surgical exam before the procedure will take place (this can be done the day of the procedure if necessary). All patients are required to be up to date on vaccines, or at a minimum, have a current Rabies vaccine. At the time of drop off, our team will be more than happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding the process.

One of our staff members will escort your pet to the surgical prepping area to wait for their surgery. If you have elected any of the recommended blood tests or other optional services, our staff will collect all necessary samples and tests prior to surgery. If any questions arise, the doctor may contact you at the number on the **surgical consent form** that was filled out prior to surgery.

You are more than welcome to check up on your pet's status throughout the day. However, we request that you allow our doctor and staff ample time for your pet's procedure to be completed. At this time, we will be able to give you an idea of when your pet may be discharged. When you arrive to take your pet home, one of our staff members will close your invoice and go over all discharge and medication instructions verbally. If you have any questions regarding the instructions, please don't hesitate to ask and our staff will be more than happy to repeat them.

We look forward to serving you and your pet on their upcoming surgery!

Pre-Anesthetic Blood Testing Information

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 doctor to the presence of dehydration, 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 prior to you undergoing anesthesia. In addition, these tests may be useful if your pet's health changes to develop faster, more accurate diagnoses and treatment.

The **Surgical Consent Form** you will sign on the day of your pet's surgery will recommend, and in some cases, require pre-anesthetic blood work.

- The **Pre-Anesthetic Profile** will include:
 - BUN and Creatine (Kidney), ALKP and ALT (Liver), Glucose (Sugar), Total Protein (Dehydration), and Electrolytes (Imbalance).
- The **CBC (optional)** will include:
 - PCV (Anemia), White Blood Cell Count (Infection) & Red Blood Cell Count (Anemia/Bleeding Disorder), Platelet Count (Clotting Disorder).
- **Owner elects to decline** the recommended pre-anesthetic blood tests at this time but still requests that we proceed with the procedure. This is indicated by signing "**I decline blood work**" clause on the **Surgical Consent Form** the day of surgery.
- At our hospital, we **require** that pre-anesthetic blood work is performed on all patients that are 7 years or older.

You will notice that we have other tests available that are not included in the above choices. We have selected tests that give the doctor a suitable overview of healthy patients. However, if the patients are in their senior years (above 7 years old) or are sick, the full senior profile may be done the day of the procedure at the owner's request.

For feline patients, our feline owners will see an option for a **FIV/FelV test**. We highly recommend this test be performed on all feline patients at least once in their lives due to the fact that both Feline Leukemia and FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus or Feline Aids) are viruses which no cure exists. If your pet goes outside, we recommend administering the Feline Leukemia vaccine as well, with a negative test result beforehand. Please don't hesitate to ask questions if you'd like to learn more.

We realize surgery and anesthesia are scary for both you, as the owner, as well as your pet. We try our best to make the day of surgery as safe and comfortable as possible for all involved. The physical examination and pre-anesthetic blood work done before the procedure takes place allows us to 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.

Surgical Information Form

Please Read Carefully

Anesthetic Procedures and Risks:

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications, as well as inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimal levels of anesthesia that are safe and appropriate for your pet.

For short procedures, an injectable anesthetic is given alone that provides a good plane of surgical anesthesia with a quick recovery.

For most procedures, your pet is anesthetized and then intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea). This will ensure that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times and prevents aspiration of any fluids into the lungs.

For procedures that require minimum sedation, an injectable anesthetic is given that produces a good plane of sedation with a quick recovery. Anesthesia is maintained with a gas anesthetic, Isoflurane, which is very safe and is not metabolized by the body. This allows us to have more control over the pet's anesthetic depth and it is less irritating to the airways.

Monitoring and pain management: Monitoring of patients during anesthesia is done two ways. First, a veterinary nurse is with your pet continuously from the beginning of anesthesia to recovery. Second, we have a computerized monitor that allow us to record heart rate, pulse, oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, respiration, ECG, and temperature.

Our hospital strongly believes in compassionate, quality medical care for all of our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain management before, during and after the surgical procedure. Additionally, pain medication will be prescribed to go home. Additional information will be given at discharge. We hope this program will reduce any discomfort experienced by the pet and aid in a quicker recovery.

Potential Surgical Complication

- Canine and Feline Spay
 - Bleeding, infection, recurrent heat, urinary incontinence, weight gain, suture reactions
- Canine and Feline Neuter
 - Bleeding, infection, testicular swelling, suture reaction (canines only)
- Feline Declaw
 - Bleeding, infection, limping/lameness, regrowth of nail
- Tumor/Mass Removal
 - Bleeding, infection swelling and drainage, suture reaction

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 necessary and added precautions you allow us to avoid any potential problems. Thank you for entrusting your pet with us and we look forward to serving you.