

Surgical Information

In an attempt to assist our clients, we have put together this information to make surgery day as easy and stress-free as possible.

If you have any questions regarding your pet's surgical procedure please feel free to contact us. You will need to start preparing for the surgery the day before the procedure. The night before surgery...

- Withhold all food and treats after 10:00 pm.
- Water may be left available until the next morning.
- If you are currently administering any medications or vitamins, withhold the morning doses unless otherwise instructed.
- If your pet is diabetic, contact the clinic for pre-surgical instructions.

Please make arrangements to have your pet at the clinic between 7:30 and 8:30 am to be admitted for their procedure. At the time of admitting, our team will be happy to answer any questions/concerns you may have. At this time we will require that you review and sign an Estimate/Treatment Plan, and that you leave a phone number(s) where you can be reached that day.

A member of our veterinary team will then escort your pet to the K9 or Feline ward to begin preparation for their procedure. If your pet needs Pre-Anesthetic Blood Work we will collect all blood samples and perform tests prior to surgery. The doctor will then perform a full physical examination and give your pet the appropriate pre-anesthetic medications. If any questions arise, the doctor will contact you at the number on the Estimate/Treatment Plan. Failure to be reached at this time may result in the postponement of the surgery. If all blood work and physical exam findings are normal, we will then proceed with your pet's surgical procedure.

We will call you after your pet has recovered from surgery and give you an idea of when your pet will be ready to be discharged. When you arrive to take your pet home, a team member 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. A receptionist will then check you out. Finally, we will bring your pet to you and assist you in getting them to your vehicle if needed.

We hope that your pet's surgery day will be a pleasant experience. We understand that surgery can be an anxious time and we are always available to answer any questions regarding the surgery procedure.

Pre-Anesthetic Blood Testing Information

Our greatest concern is the well being of your pet. Before your pet is anesthetized, the doctor will perform a full physical examination.

We also highly recommend and sometimes require pre-anesthetic blood work be performed on all pets undergoing anesthesia to maximize patient safety. Pre-anesthetic blood work is required on **all** dental procedures.

The pre-anesthetic blood work helps alert our doctor 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 pre-anesthetic blood work, thus not allowing 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.

Pre-anesthetic blood work includes the following:

- Complete Blood Count (CBC) – A CBC provides detailed information about red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets.
- Pre-Op Panel – BUN and Creatinine (CREA) provides information about kidney function. ALKP and ALT liver enzymes that can indicate liver disease. Albumin (ALB) and Total Protein (TP) proteins in the blood that can point to a variety of conditions. Blood Glucose (GLU) high levels can indicate diabetes.
- Diagnostic Chemistry – includes all of the Pre-Op Panel tests plus these additional tests. Amylase (AMYL) and Lipase (LIPA) enzymes secreted by the pancreas that can indicate pancreatitis or gastrointestinal disease. Total Bilirubin (TBIL) and GGT indicate liver disease or damage. Phosphorus (PHOS) an indicator of kidney disease. Calcium (CA) increased levels can be seen with a variety of diseases. And finally Cholesterol (CHOL). This test is usually recommended for pets over 7 years of age or those with a pre-existing condition.
- Electrolyte Panel – Sodium, Potassium, Chloride (NA, K, CL) The balance of these electrolytes is vital to your pet's health and well being. Abnormal levels can be life-threatening.
- Heartworm Test – (HWT) Heartworms are parasites that can live in the heart, major blood vessels and the lungs of dogs and cats. Heartworms can cause serious complications for your pet when they are anesthetized. Our canine heartworm test also tests for Lyme disease and E. Canis, two tick borne diseases.
- Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Test – (FELV/FIV) We highly recommend this test be performed on all feline patients at least once in their lives because FELV and FIV are viruses for which there is no cure. Please ask questions if you would like to learn more about FELV and FIV.

We realize surgery and anesthesia are scary for both you and your pet and we attempt to make surgery day as safe and comfortable as possible for both of you. The physical examination and pre-anesthetic 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 regarding your pet's upcoming surgical procedure, please do not hesitate to call us to discuss any aspect of the upcoming procedure.