

PRESURGICAL INFORMATION

No one likes the thought of their pet undergoing surgery, but we know there are certain problems that require surgical intervention for recovery. You should not be overly concerned. There have been many recent advances in veterinary surgery. Anesthesia, surgical monitoring, and surgical techniques are very advanced to insure your pet's safety. In fact, it parallels that routinely used in human surgery.

All Pets Receive A Presurgical Physical Examination To Determine Health Status.

PRESURGICAL SCREENING is recommended to insure your pet's safety to diagnose any problems not readily apparent. **THESE TESTS** vary with the individual case and **MAY INCLUDE:**

- Blood counts to assess blood components.
- Blood Chemistry Profiles to assess organ functions.
- Urinalysis.
- Radiographs.
- EKG

ANY ABNORMALITIES DIAGNOSED MAY NEED TO BE CORRECTED BEFORE SURGERY IS BEGUN. You will be called prior to surgery if we observe additional risk factors of concern. Some pets are anemic or diabetic which increases the surgical risk, especially if not known. Your doctor would not think of performing surgery on you without prelaboratory surgical testing to insure safety. We use the best anesthesia agents available, as is used in human surgery. It may be more expensive for us than other options, **BUT** we only want the best for your pet, as I'm sure you do also. All surgery is performed with sterile instruments and gloves, just as in our human counterparts. Separate sterile packs are used for each and every animal. We will not lower our high standards of quality veterinary surgery for any reason

Surgical Vital Sign Monitoring is used routinely to insure utmost safety and a surgical assistant is always with your pet from the beginning to the end of anesthesia. Most surgical cases are sent home the same day because we know your pet is much better satisfied in the home environment and therefore heals better

FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY:

HOME PREPARATION FOR SURGERY:

- No food after 8:00 p.m. the night before surgery.
- Free-choice water should remain available at all times.
- Exercise your pet the morning of surgery before bringing to the clinic to encourage Movements.

WHEN THE PET IS ADMITTED:

- Be sure to tell us about anything concerning your pet we should know before surgery. Ask us any questions you might have. We really do want you to understand what we are doing, and why we are doing it. (Consider additional simple procedures that are much cheaper to do when the pet is already anesthetized for other surgery. These procedures do not greatly increase surgical time or cost. Please review the list on the back of this handout.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR ELECTIVE PROCEDURES

On the morning of the surgery, at the time you drop off your pet, A surgical assistant will review the procedure details with you and discuss any options that may be available. Some of the options that might be available for elective procedures are:

PRE SURGICAL PROFILE:

Pre surgical blood work helps insure the safety and success of surgical procedures. Although abnormalities are uncommon, we sometimes see problems such as anemia, platelet (bleeding) disorders, blood cell changes, and organ dysfunction, which may influence or be influenced by anesthesia of the procedure. An additional benefit is obtaining baseline data for future comparisons and gaining a general health assessment. Two profiles are usually available, differing in detail and expense. The minor panel (\$73.90) includes only the values most important to the evaluation of safe anesthesia. The major panel (\$84) gives much more information and is always recommended for Senior pets for an assessment of overall health.

PREANESTHETIC ECG

An ECG is a tracing of the electrical activity of the heart. Although abnormalities known as 'arrhythmias' are rare, identifying them prior to anesthesia can prevent serious complications

IV CATHETER

An Intravenous Catheter is a device that allows for the rapid delivery of fluids and medications directly into the bloodstream. Although anesthetic emergencies are rare, when they occur, an open line into the bloodstream can save precious minutes in the delivery of life saving drugs. The catheter also allows for the delivery of Fluids during the surgical procedure.

IV FLUIDS

The administration of Intravenous Fluids into the bloodstream helps maintain blood pressure and helps preserve health and function of vital organs such as the Kidney and Liver. The use of IV Fluids is mandatory for most non elective procedures and elective procedures in patients over 10 years of age or patients with pre-existing organ dysfunction. It is a highly recommended safety option in younger pets undergoing most elective procedures.

BUPRINORPHINE

Buprinorphine is a long acting analgesic (pain reliever). It is mandatory in all non-elective procedures and highly recommended in most elective procedures. Today's anesthetic agents are extremely safe - largely do to their quick exit from the body. The down side is that they leave little residual pain relief. We always utilize pain medicine that is effective during and for a few hours after surgery. Buprinorphine, given early in the procedure will extend pain relief for eight to twelve hours. The price per injection may range from \$20-\$50 depending on the size of the patient.

DISCOUNTS for SAFETY and COMFORT PACKAGES

The above procedures may be mandatory or optional depending on the procedure and the patient. A discount of 10% is given when 2 or more of these options are chosen, to assist with the financial burden of increasing the safety and comfort level for our pets.