



PRE-SURGERY CARE

Patient name:..... Date of Surgery:.....

Surgery can be stressful for both owners and pets. This handout is to help inform you on what happens on the day your pet has surgery, and what you need to do to prepare your pet before they arrive. Post operative care information will be given to you when your pet is discharged from the hospital.

Preparing your pet for surgery

- ✓ Withholding food. It is important that your pet has nothing to eat after 10.00 pm the night before the surgery. Water may be provided overnight but please pick up the water bowl first thing in the morning.
- ✓ Toileting= Cats it is best to lock your cat up the evening prior to surgery with a littler tray. Dogs it is best to take your dog for an early morning toilet walk on a lead.
- ✓ Bathing your pet. Many owners like to bath their pets the day before the surgery because they can't be bathed until 10-14 days post surgery. This is usually 10 days after the operation. For the cost of \$15, we can organise for your pet to have a nice warm **hydrobath** at the hospital a day or two prior to his/her surgery.
- ✓ Intradermal Sutures
Intradermal sutures are dissolving sutures in the skin that don't need to be removed. It is an excellent option if your pet is likely to lick or chew at the surgery site. There is a charge of \$28.50 for intradermal sutures.
- ✓ Vaccinations, worming and fleas. It is preferable that your pets' vaccinations are current and that they are free of parasites such as fleas and intestinal worms. Vaccinations can be given at the same time as the surgical procedure at a reduced price.
- ✓ Heartworm: If your pet has not been on heartworm prevention or has missed it's heartworm prevention, a simple blood test will determine if your pet is carrying heartworm infection. There may be no outward signs of the presence of heartworm until serious disease is present.
- ✓ Pre Anaesthetic Blood Testing
No anaesthetic is 100% safe, however the risks can be reduced. Two recommended ways this can be done is by:
 1. Pre Anaesthetic Blood Testing, this checks the liver and kidney function, protein, glucose and electrolytes levels. The cost for this is \$64.80.
 2. Intravenous Fluid Support, this assists maintaining blood pressure and hydration during the anaesthetic and helps with your pets recovery. *All our desexing patients are automatically put on Intravenous Fluid Support during surgery.*

If your pet is 7 or more years of age, or in poor health we strongly recommend blood testing and intravenous fluid support. If an estimate has been done by the veterinarian, these are probably already included.

On the day of the surgery

- ✓ Appointment times for surgery admissions routinely occur between 8.00 am and 8.45 am. If this is inconvenient your pet can be admitted by appointment the evening before their operation between 5.30pm and 6.30 pm (please feed your pet before you bring them down as we can't leave food with them overnight).
- ✓ Please allow 15 minutes for the admission of your pet with the veterinary nurse who will be caring for your pet during the day.
- ✓ The nurse will go through the admission form with you. This includes your contact number for the day of the surgery and requires your signature for permission for the surgery. There are also choices regarding pre-anaesthetic blood tests (please see the reverse for more information).
- ✓ All animals having surgery performed receive a free nail trim and ear check while under anaesthetic. Animals being desexed have a tattoo placed in their left ear (this is compulsory).
- ✓ The nurse will examine your animal and discuss the surgery with you. Please feel free to ask any questions.
- ✓ Most surgery is performed in the mornings, however due to emergencies and the unpredictable nature of our work no set time can be guaranteed. A provisional discharge appointment is made during your admission. Discharge appointments are from 3.30pm – 7pm.

Post-operative pain relief

Many clients are surprised when we inform them their pet will receive additional pain relief.

We strongly believe that the pain relief makes the procedure less stressful for your pet and results in a better and faster recovery from the surgery.

The pain relief is given as an injection both before the surgery as well as once the surgery has been completed. Additional pain relief will be given as needed (of course).

Please discuss any questions regarding this with the vets or nurses.

Microchipping

Microchipping of dogs and cats is now compulsory (by State Law) for animals born after July 1 2009. If your animal was born before this date it is not compulsory but microchip identification is an essential part of having the best chance to be reunited with your pet if it is lost or escapes. The needle used to insert the microchip is quite large and while it can be given in an awake animal it is much less stressful for the animal if it is anaesthetised. Microchipping is \$35. Please ask if you would like more details.

Information about general anaesthesia and the surgical procedure.

General anaesthesia is induced by an injection into your pet's blood stream. This may require some hair being clipped from their front leg. A tube is then placed in their windpipe and the anaesthetic is maintained with oxygen and anaesthetic gas. The tube may cause a small amount of irritation in your pet's throat resulting in a cough for 2-3 days after the surgery.

The anaesthetic is monitored by a vet and trained nurse. The nurse and electronic equipment monitor your pet's heart rate, breathing rate, blood oxygen levels, and depth of anaesthesia.

Once anaesthetised the animal is prepared for the operation by having hair clipped from the surgical site. The clipped area is then cleaned with three different scrub solutions. Park Ridge Animal Hospital has a completely enclosed operating theatre to help maintain sterility. All staff in the surgery wear surgical caps and masks. The surgeon prepares by scrubbing their hands and forearms and they wear a sterile gown and gloves.

Even though all these precautions are taken post-operative infections occasionally occur. Surprisingly, post-operative infections are much less common in veterinary medicine than in human hospitals.

Once the surgery is completed your pet is monitored closely until they are awake and the endotracheal tube can be removed. They are then placed in a warm bed to complete their recovery.

Three day Post Op Check and Suture Removal – Free Services

Postoperative care is discussed when your pet is discharged from the hospital. We offer a free 3-day post op check after the surgery to ensure your pets' recovery is going well. If your pet has sutures they are usually removed 10 days after the surgery. This is free of charge (unless further medication or treatment required).