

COUNTY ANIMAL CLINIC
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WHEN YOUR PET NEEDS SURGERY
What You Need To Know

Your pet is in good hands. Veterinary surgery is just as advanced as human surgery. In fact, many human surgical procedures are first developed through the use of animal research. Although any anesthesia has some risks, recent advances in anesthesia techniques have greatly decreased the risk to the pet.

Most surgeries in pets are carried out using general anesthesia agents. A good medical history, physical examination, ECG screening of the hearts rhythm, and blood counts, along with blood chemistry testing, greatly enhance the safety index for the pet during the procedure and during the recovery period as well. Pet safety is further enhanced using the appropriate state-of-the-art vital sign monitoring equipment during the procedure and recovery. Our staff will make the appropriate recommendations to you at the time of admission, based on our standard protocols for each individual procedure. Just as in the case of human surgery, the appropriate blood work may be done prior to admission or at the time of admission.

Minimizing risks to your pet is the responsibility of both our staff and YOU. Your role in your pet's nursing care cannot be over-emphasized. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to see that the pet is presented to us properly prepared for surgery, as well as properly nursed at home after the procedure.

PREPARATION FOR SURGERY: Your home care instructions:

1. The night before surgery please:

- Feed the pet its normal diet before 8:00 p.m. *DO NOT* feed additional food after 8:00 p.m. to avoid the risk of vomiting while under the influence of anesthesia.
- Do not allow your pet to have anything to drink after midnight.
- Start oral antibiotics if directed to do so.

2. The morning surgery is scheduled:

- DO NOT allow your pet to have anything to eat or drink.
- Exercise pet before bringing to the clinic.
- Give antibiotics IF directed to do so.
- Make sure your pet has urinated/defecated before coming to the clinic.
- Be sure to remind the staff of any allergies or medical conditions your pet may have.
- Complete the surgical admittance form – Inform staff of desired pre-surgical test to be performed.
- Discuss ANY questions or concerns you may have.
- Be sure that we have a phone number where we can contact you during the day.

POST-SURGICAL TELEPHONE PROGRESS REPORTS. Our staff will call you when your pet is out of recovery and discuss the surgical procedure with you. Please feel free to contact us if you have not heard from us by 4:00 p.m.

PET DISCHARGE FROM THE HOSPITAL. Your pet may be picked up the day after surgery, after 10:00 a.m. Please inform a staff member when you plan to pick up your pet.

**ANY ABNORMALITIES DIAGNOSED MAY NEED TO BE CORRECTED
BEFORE SURGERY IS BEGUN**

Many pets are anemic or diabetic, which increases the surgical risk, especially if not know. You would not think of having surgery on yourself without pre-laboratory surgical testing to insure safety.

ANESTHESIA: We currently use the same anesthesia agents as used in human heart transplant surgery. Sevoflurane and Isoflurane are STATE-OF-THE-ART gas anesthetics and the safest anesthetics available, especially for our older patients. 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.

SURGICAL TECHNIQUES: All surgery is performed with sterile instruments and gloves, just as in our human counterparts. Separate sterile packs are used for each animal. We will not lower our high standards of quality veterinary surgery for any reason. We use only **APPROVED SURGICAL MATERIALS.** (which obviously may increase cost to us)

VITAL SIGN MONITORING: Surgical heart and respiratory monitors are used routinely to insure utmost safety of your pet.

Most surgical cases are sent home the next day so our professional staff is able to monitor your pet's recovery.

**FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS
BEFORE BRINGING IN YOUR PET FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY:**

1. The night before surgery please:

No food after 8:00 p.m. the night BEFORE surgery.

No Water should be available after midnight BEFORE surgery.

Be sure to tell us about anything concerning your pet we should know before surgery.

Exercise your pet the morning of surgery before bringing to the clinic to to encourage movements.

Ask us any question you might have.

We really do want you to understand what we are doing, and why we are doing it.

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