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As an American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) accredited hospital, great lengths are taken to ensure the safest possible surgical outcome for your pet. It is our sincerest hope that this explanation will prepare you for what to expect when your pet has a surgical procedure at Animal Care Hospital.

Pre-surgical Screening:

A sample of your pet's blood will be submitted to our laboratory for a pre-anesthetic risk assessment. This screening lab work will check for any hidden underlying problems that may complicate the successful outcome of your pet's surgical procedure. Organ function of the Liver and Kidneys are assessed. Additionally, the blood cells themselves are assessed for hidden infections, and oxygen carrying capacities.

Prior to any sedative agents being administered to your pet, the veterinarian will conduct a pre-sedation examination of your pet, review your pet's lab work again, and administer pre-emptive pain medications to your pet.

While Your Pet is Under Anesthesia/Sedation:

Anesthetic monitoring is central to the safety of our patients and therefore is assigned to and performed by a Certified Veterinary Technician who is solely dedicated to this task. Certified Veterinary Technicians are trained to induce and maintain anesthesia/sedation in collaboration and under the supervision of the veterinarian and are able to recognize abnormal trends and respond appropriately.

To maintain appropriate levels of anesthesia, Animal Care Hospital maintains its patients on a gas anesthetic. Gas anesthetics are considered safer than injectible anesthetic as the levels of gas can be decreased or increased based on the needs of the patient. An injectible anesthetic once administered into the body can't be changed.

Your pet's body temperature will be monitored as well as supplemented with a warming water blanket. Additionally your pet will be monitored by the following equipment: Respiratory monitor, pulse oximeter, blood pressure monitor, EKG monitor, and an esophageal stethoscope. Finally, your pet is connected to a respirator that will assist your pet in breathing if for any reason it should become necessary.

Infection Reducing Measures:

Our hospital's state of the art surgical suite was designed to provide your pet the most sterile surgical procedure possible. The surgical suite has its own dedicated Hepa filtration system to minimize aerosolized microorganisms, and once in the closed surgical suite the veterinarian and CVT's do not have to leave the room to reach their supplies, potentially contaminating the surgical suite.

For each patient single sterile use gloves, gowns, caps, and facemasks are utilized by staff members, as well as a sterile surgical instrument pack, and single use suture material is utilized to reduce the opportunity for contamination and premature degradation possibly leading to infection and wound dehiscence.

Post Operative Care: After surgery your pet will be given an individualized pain management plan in addition to being monitored by a Certified Veterinary Technician until your pet is capable of sitting up normally on its own. During your pet's post-operative recovery, your pet will continually be assessed for signs of pain and discomfort as well as offered water, food, and appropriate restroom opportunities. After completing their care for your pet, one of our technicians will attempt to contact you by telephone to update you on your pet's procedure and to schedule a release time with you to go over the home care instructions for your pet to continue its recovery at home.