

## **Anesthesia and Surgery**

### **What to Expect**

Please do not give your pet any food after 10pm the night before the scheduled dental procedure. Do allow water until they leave home in the morning. If they are on a consistent medication, do give that medication (you may give with a grape-sized bit of treat or food if needed to administer the medication). If your pet is diabetic, please call ahead for insulin instructions. You may bring your pet in to be admitted for the procedure between 8am and 8:45am. Please update us that morning on the medications that have been administered (and times) and provide a contact number where we may reach you that day (or an alternative contact if needed).

The overall procedure will be timed according to the day's caseload, doctor availability, and patient status. There are multiple steps to the process, several of which occur before anesthesia is started. The patient will have a pre-anesthetic evaluation, labwork if not already performed, a light sedative, and an IV catheter will be placed. The catheter is to permit IV fluids to support your pet during anesthesia as well as to provide intravenous access should any IV medications be needed. After anesthesia is induced, a breathing tube is placed to permit a steady flow of oxygen and gas anesthesia as needed. Multiple monitoring devices are utilized to assist in monitoring your pet's oxygenation, carbon dioxide levels, heart rate, blood pressure, core body temperature, and EKG. The surgical area is then prepped for the sterile surgical procedure. Local anesthetic (similar to Novocaine) is typically injected into the surgical area to numb it prior to surgery. This allows a reduced amount of general anesthesia because painful stimulation from the actual surgery is reduced.

Most surgical procedures are performed using CO<sub>2</sub> Laser, which reduces discomfort and cauterizes blood vessels to reduce surgical hemorrhage and blood loss. In most circumstances, a therapeutic Laser treatment is applied to the incision during the immediate post-operative period to decrease inflammation and encourage more rapid healing. The breathing tube is removed once the pet is fully able to breathe on their own and has a swallow reflex. We typically wait until they are sitting up in recovery before calling you with an anticipated pick-up time and any post-operative updates. Should there be any unexpected complications during the procedure, you will be contacted as soon as it is practical to do so.

Pain medications are typically administered proactively before the surgical incision is even performed and pain medications are dispensed to continue at home following most surgical procedures. The pain medication and duration is selected according to the type of surgery and typical amount of discomfort associated with that procedure. If your pet seems unusually uncomfortable during recovery, analgesic medications will be adjusted to improve their comfort – a top priority from our perspective for every surgical patient.



It has been proven that pain actually delays healing in addition to being unpleasant for our patients, so good pain control is essential for our patients.

Please see our post-operative care sheet for more information about your pet's post-operative care and what to expect after surgery [here](#).

If you have any questions about your pet's planned anesthesia or surgery, please do not hesitate to call us (727-785-6524).