

## SURGICAL INFORMATION PACKET

Dear Client,

Your pet has been scheduled for an upcoming surgery in the near future. In our attempt to assist clients, we have put together this packet to make surgery day as easy and stress-free as possible.

In addition to this letter, you will find that the following has been enclosed:

1. Pre-Anesthetic Blood Testing Information Sheet
2. Surgical Information Sheet

Please read carefully all the enclosed information. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us.

On your pet's surgery day, we require you to review and sign a surgery release form. This form will require a phone number(s) where you can be reached once the surgery is complete. Also included in the surgery release form is a statement that if your pet has fleas upon arrival on surgery day, it will be treated and that you will be charged accordingly.

The night before your pet's surgery:

1. Withhold all food and treats after 6:00pm
2. Withhold all water after midnight.
3. If you are currently administering any medications, vitamins, and/or injections, withhold the morning doses unless otherwise instructed by the doctor.

Please make arrangements for your pet to be dropped off on the morning of the scheduled surgery at 8:00am. At the time of drop off, our team will be happy to answer any questions/concerns you may have and complete all paperwork.

Our veterinary technician will escort your pet to the surgical prepping area to wait for their surgery. If the pre-anesthetic blood tests have not already been performed, our technician will collect all blood samples and run the tests prior to surgery.

If any questions arise, the doctor will contact you at the number on the Release Form.

You are welcome to check up on your pet's status at any time. However, once the procedure is complete the doctor will call you to inform you of how everything went, how your pet is waking up, as well as your pick up time. When you arrive to take your pet home, the receptionist will collect payment and the veterinary technician will go over all discharge orders both verbally as well as send you home with a written copy of the instructions. If you do not understand any instructions, please do not hesitate to ask them to go over them once more.

We hope surgery day will be a pleasant experience. Remember, our team knows surgery can be an anxious time and we are always available to answer any and all questions concerning the upcoming procedure.

We look forward to serving you and your pet on the upcoming surgery day and years to come.

**PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOOD TESTING INFORMATION SHEET**

Our greatest concern is the well being of your pet. Before putting your pet under anesthesia, we routinely perform a full physical examination.

We also require that a **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** be performed on all pets undergoing anesthesia to maximize patient safety.

The **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** helps alert our doctor to the presence of dehydration, anemia, infection, diabetes, kidney, and/or liver disease that could complicate the procedure. These conditions may not be detected without a pre-anesthetic profile thus not allowing for the most appropriate and safest anesthetic regime to be administered. These tests are similar to those your own physician would run if you were to undergo anesthesia. In addition, these tests may be useful if your pet's health changes in order to develop faster, more accurate diagnoses and treatments.

The **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** can be performed either several days prior to the procedure by an outside laboratory or it can be done in-house the day of the procedure.

If the patient is in his/her senior years (above 7 years old) or is sick, a senior panel is recommended and would need to be performed prior to the day of the procedure.

We realize surgery and anesthesia are scary for both the owner and the patient, which is why we attempt to make surgery day as safe and comfortable for all involved. The physical examination and blood work done prior to any surgical procedure allows us to best minimize anesthetic and surgical risks and maximize patient safety.

If you have any questions or hesitations about the scheduled procedure, please do not hesitate to call us to discuss any aspect of the upcoming procedure.

## **SURGICAL INFORMATION SHEET**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications, injectables, and/or inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimum levels of anesthesia that are safe for your pet.

**For short procedures**, an injectable anesthetic is given alone that produces a good plane of surgical anesthesia with a quick recovery.

**For most procedures**, your pet is anesthetized and then intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea). This will ensure that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times and prevents aspiration of any fluids into the lungs.

**For procedures that require minimum sedation**, an injectable anesthetic is given that produces a good plane of sedation with quick recovery. Anesthesia is maintained with a gas anesthetic, Isoflurane, which is very safe and is not metabolized by the body. This allows us to have more control over anesthetic depth and it is less irritating to the airways. Another advantage to Isoflurane is a quick induction using a mask versus using injectable anesthetics that require metabolism from the body.

**Monitoring & Pain Management** – Monitoring of patients during anesthesia is done in two ways. First, a veterinary technician is with your pet continuously from beginning of anesthesia to recovery. Second, we have a computerized monitor that records heart rate, pulse rate, oxygen levels, respiration, ECG, and core temperature.

Our clinic strongly believes in compassionate, quality, medical care for our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain medication prior to the surgery. Additionally pain medication may be prescribed home. Additional information will be given at discharge. We hope this program will reduce any discomfort experienced and aid in a quicker recovery.

### **Intravenous Catheterization & Fluids**

Most of our anesthetic procedures are performed with the placement of an IV catheter and use of IV fluids. This allows us to have quick, available access to the circulatory system (blood) in case of an unforeseen emergency. The fluids help provide support to the circulatory system and prevent dehydration, as well as aid in a quicker recovery from anesthesia.

### **Potential Surgical Complications**

1. Canine and Feline Spay – bleeding, infection, recurrent heat, urinary incontinence, weight gain, suture reaction
2. Canine and Feline Neuter – bleeding, infection, testicular swelling, suture reaction (canine only)
3. Feline Declaw – bleeding, infection, limping/lameness, re-growth of nail
4. Tumor/Lump Removal – bleeding, infection, swelling and drainage, suture reaction

**It is important for you to understand that there is always a risk of anesthetic and surgical complications anytime these procedures are performed. We strive to take the highest quality care of your pet and take all the added precautions to avoid potential problems. Thank you for entrusting your pet to us.**