

Preparing Your Pet for Surgery

We understand that bringing your pet in for surgery can be a stressful event, so we wanted to provide you some information to help make their drop-off appointment as stress-free as possible.

Your pet should be fasted for at least 8 hours before surgery, so we recommend that they not get any food after midnight. They can have water up until the time that they come in for surgery.

Please remember that we will be having you sign surgery paperwork when you drop your pet off so if the account holder will not be present at that time, we need to know in advance so that the person dropping off your pet can be authorized on your account.

The day before your pet's surgery, we will call you and ask some basic history questions such as whether your pet has allergies or medical issues such as seizures. We also ask what current medications your pet is on. Next, we go over some surgical options for your pet. Below is more information about things that may be optional with your surgery.

- **Pre-surgical Bloodwork:** Pre-anesthesia bloodwork helps us identify possible problems that may not be evident with physical examination alone. Our test will check for signs of infection, anemia, diabetes, kidney disease and liver disease which could affect your pet's ability to process anesthesia and heal from surgery. If your pet has abnormal test results, we may take special precautions during the surgery or even reschedule it. Normal blood work also gives us baseline data that we can refer to if your animal becomes ill in the future.
- **Post-Surgical Laser Treatment:** Therapeutic laser therapy helps your pet get a jump start on healing after their surgical procedure. It uses light energy to cause a physiological change at the cellular level. These changes can include replenishing ATP (the molecule that carries energy in the cells), reducing inflammation and decreasing pain transmission.
- **Medical Pet Shirt:** For years clients have dreaded the infamous Elizabethan collar! Although plastic e-collars can be extremely effective at preventing your pet from licking and chewing their incision, their bulkiness can make it difficult for some pets to get comfortable while they are healing. To help with their post-surgical comfort we now offer Medical Pet Shirts. These spandex pet onesies help to cover their incision which prevents your pet from being able to lick the area. They have light colored fabric on the inside of the shirt so that you can monitor discharge from their incision and have snaps that hold the shirt out of the way while your pet is urinating and defecating.
- **Radiographs and Histopathology:** If your pet is having a mass removed then there are two things that you should consider. Before surgery we can perform radiographs of their chest to look for signs of metastasis, as some types of tumor can spread through the body. If their lungs appear normal, then after surgery is performed we can send the mass to a pathologist for review. The pathologist gives information such as the type and grade of the tumor. They can also give information about whether the mass appears to be systemically or locally aggressive and confirm that we cut wide enough margins to discourage regrowth.
- **Microchip Placement:** A microchip is a radio-frequency identification transponder that is roughly the size of a grain of rice and carries a unique identification number. The microchip is injected under the loose skin between your pet's shoulder blades and serves as a permanent way to identify your pet.
- **Deciduous Teeth Removal:** Most pets are seen for their first surgery at 6 months of age when they are spayed or neutered. By this time your pet's adult teeth should be present, and their baby teeth should have fallen out. If baby teeth don't fall out naturally this can lead to food impaction and early onset of periodontal disease. For that reason, we recommend removal of the deciduous (baby) teeth while your pet is under anesthesia for their procedure.
- **Additional testing (fecal, 4DX, 3DX):** While your pet is hospitalized, be sure to let us know if you would like any of their annual testing updated such as an intestinal parasite screen to check for worms or a 4DX to test for heartworm and tick-borne disease.