



ANESTHESIA AND YOUR PET

We understand your concerns for the safety of your pet when undergoing an anesthetic event. We make every effort to provide the highest standards of care.

BEFORE ANESTHESIA:

- Pre-anesthetic lab work is performed (usually within one month of the procedure) to assess adequate blood cells, as well as appropriate kidney and liver function.
- The night prior to anesthesia, do not offer your pet any food after 10pm. It is important that anesthesia be administered when your pet has an empty stomach. Please remove water the morning of the procedure.
- If your pet is on any medication, please consult with the Doctor first. The above fasting instructions may be altered.

DURING ANESTHESIA:

- Admission for anesthesia will take at least 10 minutes. You will meet with a Veterinary Technician and discuss the treatment plan for the day. A tour of our facility is also available to you at this time.
- A pre-emptive analgesic/sedative will be administered to relax your pet while helping to decrease the overall amount of anesthesia needed for the procedure.
- An intravenous catheter will be placed, usually in one of the front legs. Be aware that there will be a small shaved area at this location. Through the IV catheter, there will be an infusion of fluids to help maintain blood pressure levels and ensure adequate perfusion of blood to the body's major organs, as well as to provide access to administer appropriate medications. Your pet will be given an injectable anesthesia and then maintained on inhalant anesthesia via an endotracheal tube.
- A Veterinary Technician will be monitoring your pet while under anesthesia. We also use state-of-the-art monitoring equipment to measure such parameters as ECG (electrical activity of the heart), Blood Pressure (to ensure the heart is delivering blood adequately throughout the body), Pulse Oximetry (tracking the level of oxygen being delivered by the blood through the body), Capnography (monitoring the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the respiratory gases), and Body Temperature. We also maintain a detailed record of the anesthetic event recording vital signs/condition throughout the surgery. Your pet's body temperature will be supported with a circulating, warm water blanket.
- Please be aware that the surgery site will be shaved and scrubbed to ensure a sterile surgical field.
- As a courtesy for all anesthetic patients, we routinely trim nails, clean ears and express anal glands.

AFTER ANESTHESIA:

- During recovery, we provide your pet a quiet, comfortable area with plenty of soft bedding and circulating warm water blankets.
- Our surgical recovery area is constantly staffed by Veterinary Technicians who help ensure a comfortable recovery for your pet. Their care includes continual vital sign monitoring until recovery is complete, as well as an effective pain management protocol.
- We will contact you when your pet is recovering to update you on your pet's condition, as well as to confirm a discharge time.
- To help you speed your pet's complete recovery, we will give you detailed instructions for post-operative, at home care including surgical site care, monitoring, medications and the possible need for an e-collar.