

PRE OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Your pet has been scheduled for surgery on _____. It is important that you follow these simple instructions to make your pet's surgery proceed without undue problems or difficulty.

Please bathe your pet prior to surgery. It will not be allowed to be bathed until the sutures are removed or dissolve which will be approximately 10-14 days. Cats can be excluded from this recommendation. To prevent flea infestation of the clinic, we will treat any pet that has fleas with a product from our clinic and the charge will be added to your total bill.

Do not feed your pet after 8 pm the night prior to surgery. If your pet must have water through the night, only provide a small amount (approximately ¼ cup). Any food in the stomach may be vomited during anesthesia and inhaled. This causes a severe life-threatening pneumonia. Talk to the staff if your pet is a diabetic currently on insulin.

All surgery patients should be at the hospital at 8 am (unless otherwise directed) the day of surgery. If you have special circumstances, please let the staff know now. We may be able to make arrangements for you to drop your pet off the night before. If you are unable to keep your appointment we request a 24 hour notice. Repeated missed surgery appointments will result in our inability to provide you with future dates.

We will contact you at the daytime phone number provided once your pet's procedure is completed or if an emergency should arise. All pets should be picked up by 5 pm on the day of release unless there is a medical reason to not discharge. Declaw surgery patients are required to stay in the hospital two days for bandage removal. Please let us know if you will be having someone other than you or a family member picking up your pet.

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications/injectable and/or inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimum levels of anesthesia that are safe for your pet. We will perform pre-anesthetic bloodwork to assess the risks associated with your individual pet's procedure. If all the test are normal, it does not guarantee that your pet will not have an anesthetic reaction, but it does tell us that your pet is healthy and is at a low risk for complications. Any anesthetic procedure carries some risks. We will monitor your pet closely while under anesthesia and throughout recovery to avert any problems that might arise.

It is important for you to understand that there is always a risk of anesthetic and surgical complications. We strive to take the highest quality care of your pet. Below is a list of post-operative complications that may occur after some of the most commonly performed procedures.

Canine/Feline neuter- 1) Bleeding 2) Infections 3) Scrotal swelling/irritation 4) Suture reaction

Canine/Feline spay- 1) Bleeding 2) Infection 3) Recurrent heat 4) Urinary incontinence
5) Weight gain 6) Suture reaction

Tumor/Lump removal- 1) Bleeding 2) Infection 3) Swelling/drainage 4) Suture reaction

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call us at (304)782-4011. We will gladly answer all your questions about this letter as well as the surgical procedure. The more informed you are about the surgery and recovery, the easier it will be for you to care for your pet after the procedure. Your pet will be sent home with a list of instructions on follow-up care and medication requirements. **Thank you for entrusting your pet with us.**