

## **Surgery Protocol:**

We ask that your pet be dropped off between 8:15 AM and 8:30 AM the Wednesday morning of your pet's surgery.

Please allow time to read and discuss admission forms and to get answers to any questions you may have. Please understand there will be more than one surgery to admit so you may need to wait.

We will require contact information. It is imperative we be able to reach you or someone authorized to make medical decisions for your pet.

Please consider these additional procedures which may be done while your pet is anesthetized:

**Permanent identification with either a tattoo or microchip:** tattooing requires you pay a fee and complete paperwork at the courthouse prior to the day of surgery. The courthouse has to assign the tattoo number and we have no way of obtaining a number for you. Microchips can be registered to a national database to allow your pet to be identified and returned should you become separated.

**Deep ear flushing:** Many dogs and cats resist having their ears cleaned. Cleaning them under anesthesia allows us to do a deep and thorough cleaning. We have specialized equipment in the form of a video otoscope allowing us to clean the ears down to the ear drums and perform advanced ear procedures.

**Extracting baby teeth:** Certain breeds, especially toy breeds, are predisposed to retained deciduous teeth. If not extracted, the adult teeth have alignment problems. Additionally, food often gets caught between the deciduous and permanent tooth causing gingivitis and dental disease. The rule is, no two teeth should occupy the same space at the same time. If your pet has an adult tooth that has partially erupted and the deciduous tooth is still present, the deciduous tooth should be extracted.

**Hip radiographs:** While hip dysplasia cannot be ruled out until a dog is two years of age, it can be detected early in some dogs. Screening radiographs under anesthesia, when the muscles are relaxed, are the most accurate way to assess for hip dysplasia.

**Nail trim:** Some cats and dogs resent having their nails trimmed. We have the opportunity to trim them as short as possible while your pet is under anesthesia. It is standard protocol for us to trim our patient's nails during any anesthetic procedure (unless it is an emergency procedure or the patient is unstable).

Typically we have about three to five surgical procedures on a given day. There has to be a first and a last. Some clients get concerned when they call for an update and we have not started their pet's

procedure. Please realize we will not rush any procedure simply for the sake of getting to the next patient. Second, we arrange the order of procedures with the following considerations: clean procedures like elective surgeries go before dental work or other “dirty procedures.” Critical patients are done before electives. Patients that are having outpatient procedures are done before those that are staying overnight.

We understand your level of concern during your pet’s anesthesia and surgery. We welcome your phone calls to check on your beloved pet. We are also sensitive to the fact that some people cannot receive phone calls regarding their pet while at work. We will gladly communicate via email if that works better for you.

When your pet is recovering we will call you with an update. A discharge time will be set at that point. At the time of your discharge you will be given discharge instructions covering the aftercare of your pet. We will also discuss any medications going home with your pet and allow you time to ask questions. It is important you fully understand the aftercare to ensure a positive outcome. No question is a dumb question. We want you asking questions. We request that you not leave with your pet unless you are 100% positive you clearly understand your pet’s aftercare.

We make every effort to make this a positive experience. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help make this a better experience for you and your pet.

To understand our anesthesia protocol, please close this page and click on the “anesthesia protocol” link under Client Forms/Information.