

Surgery – General Information

Prior to any drugs being administered your pet's vet gives each animal a physical examination. Your pet is checked carefully for an abnormal teeth, problems with the ears, and any lumps or bumps. She will listen to the heart for evidence of murmur or irregular beats. Finally, if your pet is having a spay or neuter, the sex of your pet is confirmed and males are double checked for both testicles in the correct position.

Pre-anesthetic blood tests help to ensure your pet is as healthy as possible for surgery, and with our fast in-house blood analyzer, we can get those results within minutes.

Once we're ready to get started, your pet will be given a mild sedative which will help her to relax. The injection also contains some extra pain control so she will be more comfortable after the surgery is finished.

After placing an intravenous catheter, the technician injects a small amount of anesthetic drug into the vein. This drug allows your pet to completely relax and a tube is put into the airway through the mouth, for the gas anesthetic.

We use only isoflurane mixed with oxygen for gas anesthesia. While your pet is under the effects of the gas anesthesia, a technician carefully monitors your pet for heart rate, blood pressure, and oxygenation of the blood.

Once your pet is fully anesthetized the technician will shave the area that will be

operated on. The skin is scrubbed with a special disinfectant soap and then your pet is moved into the dedicated operating room. A final disinfectant is applied to the skin before the surgeon begins. When you pick up your pet when she's ready to go home you might notice pink colour on the skin – this is that final disinfectant solution.

While the technician has been preparing your pet, the surgeon has been preparing herself by scrubbing her hands carefully with disinfectant soap and drying them with a sterile towel before putting on the sterile gown and gloves.

The technician has also prepared the surgical instruments and the laser that will be used for the procedure. Each instrument pack is individually cleaned, dried, wrapped and the sterilized in a steam autoclave. We use one set of instruments per pet – no sharing allowed!

The surgeon places a sterile drape over your pet before making any cuts. The drape has a hole in the middle, and keeps the hair and other debris out of the surgical field.

After surgery is finished, the isoflurane is stopped and your pet will breathe pure oxygen for a few minutes until she is awake enough to remove the breathing tube. She is placed in a warmed recovery area and monitored closely by the technicians, when she will rest comfortably until she is ready to go home.