

# Instructions for the Surgery Day

(from [www.rascalunit.com](http://www.rascalunit.com))

## **Food and Water:**

Adult dogs and cats – Do not give your adult cat or dog food after 10 p.m. the night before surgery, and do not give water the morning of surgery. If your pet accidentally eats the morning of surgery, just let a staff member know at drop-off. Surgery can still be done 4 – 6 hours after the meal.

Puppies and kittens – Pets under 4mo should not be fasted since they cannot maintain normal sugar levels throughout the day. Please feed half of the normal amount they would receive at breakfast.

Rabbits – Rabbits cannot be fasted. They should have food and water available up to surgery time and shortly after they recover from the anesthesia. Please bring in your rabbit's regular food at drop off (hay, greens +/- veggies and pellets).

## **Flea and heartworm prevention:**

Veterinarian approved flea and tick preventives (Advantage, Frontline, Vectra, Revolution, etc) can be applied prior to or right after surgery. Over the counter flea preventives (Heartz, BioSpot, Sergeants) are potentially toxic and should never be used. Over the counter flea collars are also toxic, especially in combination with anesthesia, and will be discarded in the trash if present during exam. Seresto collars are safe and ok to wear.

Veterinarian prescribed heartworm prevention (Advantage Multi, Interceptor, Heartgard, Iverhart, Trifexis) is safe to give prior to or after surgery.

## **Prescription medications:**

If your pet has been given any prescription or over the counter medications during the month prior to surgery, please let us know to ensure that there will not be any complications with the anesthetic or pain medications. If your pet is on a long term medication (i.e. phenobarbital, prednisone, insulin), contact us or your regular veterinarian prior to surgery to determine if your pet should receive the medication the day of the procedure. Do not withhold your pet's daily medications without consulting us or your regular veterinarian first.

## **Nursing Animals:**

If your female dog or cat had a litter recently, please ensure that the puppies/kittens have been separated from the mother for at least 2 weeks prior to surgery. The presence of milk in the mammary glands increases the risk of infection, wound opening and delayed healing.

## **Pediatric surgeries:**

Rascal routinely spays and neuters puppies and kittens as young as 8 weeks who weigh at least 2 lbs. Because younger pets may have a higher risk from the anesthetic, each patient will be

individually evaluated prior to surgery. If a pediatric patient is not considered to be healthy enough for surgery, you will be asked to reschedule for a later time.

*We require that all dogs and cats presented for sterilization are up to date on Rabies vaccination. If your pet is not current, we will administer the vaccine on the surgery day at a cost of \$7.00. Proof of vaccine must be presented at check in and must be in the form of a printed receipt or vaccine certificate from your regular veterinarian. Rabies tags, incomplete paperwork, and vaccines administered by a non-veterinarian will not be accepted and the pet will be vaccinated.*

All pets must be restrained upon arrival. Please bring dogs on a secure leash or crate. All cats and rabbits must come in a crate. If you do not have a crate or leash, please let a staff member know prior to getting your pet out of the car.

### **What to expect the day of Surgery**

You will be given a drop-off time for the day of surgery. Keep in mind that this is the time for your pet to be checked in and not a surgery time. Our surgery schedule consists of 40 – 60 procedures per day, therefore some patients will not have surgery until later in the day. The order for the surgeries is based on patient status followed by order of arrival. If you must pick up your pet by a certain time, please let a staff member know. However, we cannot guarantee a pick up time.

You will be asked to fill out patient information, including a history form. If your pet is current on Rabies vaccination, you must present a current certificate from a licensed veterinarian which includes your pet's information at drop off. We will not accept Rabies tags or incomplete forms, handwritten receipts or vaccine booklets as proof of Rabies. If your pet is not current, we will administer the vaccine for \$7.00. If your pet has been current on Rabies vaccination and it is due close to the scheduled surgery time, we can give your pet a 3-yr Rabies vaccine for \$7.00.

Once your pet is checked in, we will examine him/her for overall health status (does not apply to ferals). If your pet is not considered to be healthy for surgery, we will contact you to reschedule the procedure date. If your pet is healthy, s/he will be sedated to decrease anxiety in preparation for the anesthesia. Once ready for surgery, your pet will be given an injectable anesthetic followed by intubation and gas anesthesia for maintenance (intubation does not apply to male cats). Once surgery is completed, you will be given a call with your pet's status and a pick up time.

When you pick up your pet, you will be given written instructions which will help you take care of your pet after surgery. If you bring in a stray or feral cat, please ask our staff for special instructions.

The type of pain medication given will be determined by the type of surgery and other medications your pet may be taking. Our staff may ask for a local pharmacy number or provide you with a written prescription if your pet requires a medication we do not carry.

If you have any questions, problems or concerns after surgery you may contact us at our Dublin office at 614-791-7729. You can also reach us by email by sending a message to [rascalunit@rascalunit.com](mailto:rascalunit@rascalunit.com).

The Rascal Animal Hospital and Emergency Care will do surgery rechecks for Rascal Unit patients for **surgery related issues only** for up to 10 days after surgery at no charge for the exam (The exam is free, you will be responsible for fees needed for medications or additional services). Remember, the best way to prevent complications is to follow the go-home instructions carefully. Most post-operative complications can be avoided by keeping your pet quiet and monitoring to ensure they do not cause harm to themselves. However, even with excellent care complications may still occur.