

For The Animals Veterinary Clinic  
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## What Happens the Day of Surgery

Our medical facility performs surgical procedures on specified days. During those days, our whole staff is focused solely on surgical patients, providing the best care possible before, during, and after their procedure.

### 1. Drop-off

Regardless of what time your pet's surgery will actually take place, we will want your pet dropped off first thing in the morning. **Our drop off times are between 8:00 -9:00 AM.**

Dropping your pet off on time is important as our staff start preparing for and planning out the day's surgeries.

If your schedule does not allow for these particular times, please let us know and we will do our best to find alternatives for you.

### 2. Prepping for Surgery

Preparations begin after check in. All patients get a physical exam from the veterinarian before receiving any medication. This is to make sure that your pet is healthy enough for surgery.

If you approved pre-anesthetic bloodwork, and anything comes back abnormal, the doctor will give you a call to discuss the plan for going forward.

We may also start intravenous (IV) fluids before the surgery to help with hydration and support your pet's kidneys.

### 3. The Surgery Itself

If everything goes well during pre-op, your pet will head into the operating room.

Your pet will be closely monitored during the procedure to make sure that they are doing well. The length of the surgery will depend on several factors like anatomy or age.

Once surgery begins, we will not want to take time to call you, because getting your pet in and out of surgery efficiently is our top priority.

#### 4. After Surgery

Once your pet is off anesthesia, they will be moved to their kennel to recover.

A staff member will stay with your pet until they are awake. We make sure they are breathing and are comfortable, not twisted or positioned weirdly.

Your pet will spend the next few hours resting and working the anesthesia drugs out of their system. They will be quite groggy during this time. The staff will watch them for any signs of pain or other complications and adjust medications as needed. Some pets may be kept on fluids for a while for extra hydration.

Our surgeon may not call you as soon as your pets' surgery is done but may wait to make all of their calls at once at the end of their surgery schedule. This could be late in the day. Sometimes a technician will make the call instead depending on the doctor's availability. This call is to update you on any findings, and schedule a pick-up time.

**For routine procedures, we usually do not call you post-op, but have a pick-up time of 5:00-6:00 PM scheduled.**

#### 5. Pickup and Discharge

Your pet will need to stay until they are ready to be discharged.

This is because it takes time to clear the body of most of the anesthesia and your pet will be disoriented at first. It is much safer recovering in the hospital, where our team can monitor and provide extra medical care immediately if needed. Please try to be patient for those next few hours (sometimes overnight), and know that your pet is in good hands.

We will discharge when we release your pet back to your care. Either the surgeon or a technician will go over your pet's discharge instructions and medications in detail.

We will send home discharge instructions in writing, so that you can read over some points after you've settled at home. This gives you something to refer back to when you have a question about your pets' care.

#### **No Breakfast Means No Breakfast!**

In general, all cats or dogs weighing less than 5 pounds or under the age of 8 weeks can have a small meal the morning of surgery as long as it is within 1-2 hours before check in

Dogs weighing over 5 pounds should receive no food after midnight prior to their procedure.

Dogs lose their swallow reflex while under anesthesia. If they vomit up food while asleep, there is nothing to stop those substances from aspirating into their lungs. It's important to let our team know if your pet accidentally ate the morning of surgery. We may choose to delay your dog's surgery for a couple hours, or you may have to reschedule the surgery for another day.

There are no water restrictions for our patients.

## Why Can't I Stay With My Pet?

### 1. Safety

This is a hospital, an inherently unsafe place for people without proper training. As a veterinary hospital, there are also a variety of animal patients – not all of them may be friendly, and may or may not be happy about being there. No one wants someone else's pet to hurt you! If there is an emergency, the staff will need to move quickly to get a patient stabilized.



### 2. Privacy

Many owners are very sensitive about their pets. They may not want strangers looking at their dogs when they aren't feeling good or watching their dog undergo surgery. Respect these wishes.

## Things to Bring the Day of your Pets Surgery

Here are some things to bring with you when you drop your pet off for surgery:

- Cone or bodysuit that fits your pet (if needed)
- A list of prescription medications , Please let us know whether or not you gave your pet any medications they would normally take on a daily basis
- Copies of records and bloodwork (if your pet has been seeing multiple vets)

## Pre-Surgery Paperwork

Expect to fill out some paperwork the morning of the surgery, so plan some extra time (you may be able to pick this up ahead of time). Here are some things that are included:

- Signature to give permission for the surgery
- Phone number(s) where you can be reached in case of emergency
- Any add-on procedures, such as nail trim or ear cleaning
- Approval or declining of pre-anesthetic bloodwork, CPR or DNR
- Flea Policy \*\*

Accurate phone numbers are extremely important! If something does go wrong, we will need to be able to reach you quickly.

*\*\* You should know that we have a policy in place that we automatically treat any pet found to have live fleas. This is so that our facility and other patients don't get infested with these parasites.*

## Pre-anesthetic Bloodwork

Before putting your pet under anesthesia we recommend that a pre-anesthetic blood profile be performed to maximize patient safety and alert the doctor to the present dehydration, anemia,

infection, diabetes, kidney and/or liver disease which may complicate the procedure. These conditions may not be detected without a preanesthetic profile. If any significant abnormalities are detected on your pet's blood work, we will contact you and discuss further diagnostics and/or recommendations. In some circumstances and for pets 10 years and older, the doctor may require that your pet have blood work prior to a procedure involving anesthesia.



Our surgeon will pick the appropriate test based on the pet's age and/or medical history.

## CPR vs. DNR

No one wants to think about the worst-case scenario, and there are lots of things we do in our pre-surgery tests to avoid this situation... but it's important to think about what you want our team to do if your pet dies during surgery. Deciding ahead of time what you would like done in case of an emergency will allow our team to work quickly if we have to.

**CPR = Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation / DNR = Do Not Resuscitate**

If you opt for CPR, you are giving our team permission to initiate CPR immediately if your pet goes into cardiopulmonary arrest.

If you opt for DNR, you are declining lifesaving measures if your pet goes into cardiopulmonary arrest (heart and/or lungs stop working).

There is no wrong answer. You and your pet are unique, and the best choice for you might not be the best choice for someone else.

## Traveling with your pet

Please make sure to always have your dog on a safe collar and lead, and your cat in a carrier! Drop-off and pick-up times are busy and there may be other pets getting checked in or discharged.

