

What Questions Should I Ask BEFORE my Pet Has Anesthesia & Surgery?



Your pet depends on you to find a veterinarian with the experience and training required if surgery is necessary. If a surgery is not “routine,” some **important questions to ask** your veterinarian include:

- Are there alternative procedures or treatments available?
- What are the risks and possible complications of anesthesia and surgery?
- What should I expect the outcome of the surgery to be, both short and long term?
- What is my pet’s short and long term prognosis after surgery?
- How often has your surgeon performed this surgery?
- What happens before, during and after surgery?
- Will my pet have an IV catheter and fluids during the procedure?
- What type of post-operative and follow-up care is necessary?
- Should my pet stay in a 24-hour facility after surgery?
- If I have questions or concerns about my pet after the procedure, who do I contact?
- Would advanced imaging, such as a CT scan or MRI, help surgical planning?
- Would it be better if a [board-certified veterinary surgeon](#) performed this procedure?

For additional information about **anesthesia and surgery in pets**, please visit the following website articles:

DOGS

[Anesthesia and Your Dog](#) by Pet Health Network

[How Safe is Anesthesia in My Senior Dog](#) by PetHealth Network

CATS

[Anesthesia and Your Cat](#): by Pet Health Network

Please read [How Does Anesthesia Work](#), [When Your Pet Needs Anesthesia \(AVMA\)](#), and [What Can I Expect When My Pet Needs Anesthesia](#) written by AAHA for additional information.