

Your Pet's Upcoming Anesthetic & Surgical Procedure

What to Expect the Day of the Procedure

****Your preparation *prior* to your pets' procedure is important your pet's recovery ****

Read: [Your Pet's Surgery: An Expert Guide to What to Expect](#) by Petful

Days Before Procedure

- Laboratory Tests** have been performed in advance whenever possible
- Previous Medical Records** - be sure we have all records & labwork results if done elsewhere
- Bathe & Groom your Pet *prior*** to surgery!
- Don't Like E-Collars?** Consider buying a **surgical recovery suit** such as a [Sultical](#); [K9TopCoat](#); [Heywean](#), on Amazon; a [Basket Muzzle](#); or other [alternatives](#)
- Pick-Up Medications** - your pet may be advised to take medications the night before and morning of the procedure to help with anxiety, sedation, preempt pain, and decrease procedure-related nausea
- Complete Pre-Surgical Paperwork** - if not already done
- Additional Procedures Needed?** See next page. ****Additional Charges Apply**...**

Night before Procedure

- Administer Medications as Directed***
- No food after 10pm**** [for pets >6 months or >10 pounds]. Water is OK.
- Complete Pre-Surgical Paperwork** - if not already done

Morning of Procedure

- Administer Medications as Directed*** - as early as possible. OK if small treat needed
- No Food**** [for pets >6 months or >10 pounds]. A small drink of water is OK
- Allow your pet eliminate at home** prior to departure
- Be On-Time^** - come at your scheduled drop off time window
- Prepare** - your pet's check-in process will take approximately 15-30 min
- Walk Your Dog** - when you arrive, take your pet for a short walk to eliminate. The pets are not walked while in-hospital
- Be Available** - by phone / text / email so we can contact you about your pet as needed
- Pick-Up Time** - usually between 3:00-5:30 unless otherwise discussed
- Be Courteous** - we know your time is valuable, we are working as fast as we can
- Relax** - we know how important your pet is to you, you are in good hands!

* A hospital stay can be stressful for your pet. Medication(s) may have been sent home to help ease pet anxiety and help preempt pain.* (ie: gabapentin and trazodone)

** Except for pets <6 months old or <10 pounds, feeding your pet the morning of surgery will likely result in procedure cancellation / reschedule and loss of your deposit (if applicable).** **For puppies/kittens & pets under 10 pounds, feed 3-5 pieces of kibble or 1 tablespoon of wet food prior to arrival.**

^ Failure to show up during your scheduled drop off window may result in procedure cancellation or reschedule unless prior arrangements were made.

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Will my pet have an examination prior to surgery?

- ❖ **In most cases, YES.** A *cursory* examination evaluating your pet's overall condition and demeanor, listening to the heart & lungs, evaluating gum color and pulse quality, and feeling for abnormal lymph node enlargement happens on every surgical patient by trained surgery staff and the veterinarian if needed. *****This exam is not intended to find every potential abnormality on your pet*****. If you have a concern about your pet prior to surgery, schedule a doctor exam & consultation **BEFORE** you drop off your pet for their scheduled surgical procedure.
- ❖ For spays & neuters, evaluation for abdominal wall [hernia](#), [retained baby teeth](#), [cherry eye](#), [entropion](#), loosely attached or abnormally formed [rear dewclaws](#), and [stenotic nares](#) on [brachycephalic breeds](#) may be observed with the option for surgical correction **IF** time permits. If your pet has a significant abnormality noted the day of surgery, you may be required to sign a high risk anesthetic/surgery waiver or the procedure may be canceled / rescheduled.

*****Pets who are fearful, overly anxious, or aggressive WILL NOT be examined until under anesthesia for both patient and staff safety*****

- ❖ Remember to give the prescribed anxiety and pain medications as instructed the night before and the morning of surgery so your pet is as relaxed, can have their pre-op examination, and is as pain free as possible (ie: trazodone and gabapentin).

What about vaccines and other wellness services (ie: Heartworm testing) at the time of their surgical or dental procedure?

- ❖ For best vaccination effectiveness (best immune response) and your pet's safety, it is **IDEAL** to give vaccinations 2-weeks prior to or 2-weeks after any anesthetic or surgical procedure. A good time to consider vaccinations is when your pet comes in for preoperative labwork. If you are unwilling or unable to accommodate vaccinations prior to or after the day of surgery, we can administer the vaccines while here for their procedure. You will be asked to sign a waiver acknowledging the cons to vaccination performed in conjunction with anesthesia. Heartworm testing and deworming can easily be performed while your pet is here for surgery without potential complications.

Will I be able to speak to a doctor before or after the procedure?

- ❖ **NO.** One of the ways we keep our costs lower is to keep our surgeons and dentists doing what they do best - surgery, dentistry, and focusing on patient care. It is not uncommon for our procedural veterinarians to perform up to 20+ procedures per day. If a conversation occurred with each surgical patient, we would not be able to keep our prices low or help as many pets in need.
- ❖ If you have questions about the procedure, **a veterinary exam & consultation** needs to be scheduled **PRIOR** to the day of surgery with **your primary veterinarian** either at this facility or elsewhere. Our surgeons will review your pet's previous records either prior to or the day of surgery.
- ❖ If there are specific recommendations from the veterinarian for your pet after surgery, they will follow up with you in an email.

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FOR SPAYS, what if my pet is pregnant and I didn't know it?

- ❖ Once your pet is here for their scheduled spay, they will be spayed regardless of pregnancy status or gestational age - **We will not call you to notify you that your pet is pregnant.** You will be made aware of pregnancy status after surgery. If you are concerned your pet is pregnant, but are not willing to have a pregnant spay performed (termination of pregnancy), you need to schedule an appointment with your primary veterinarian or the General Practice service to discuss options.

What about any pending diagnostic tests or biopsy (histopathology) results?

- ❖ You should follow up with your **primary veterinarian** regarding any biopsy results or diagnostic test results performed the day of surgery as they will be able to guide you on how to best proceed. Biopsy results usually take 7-10 business days.

Is there a possibility my pet's procedure may be POSTPONED?

- ❖ **POSSIBLY.** We don't like it, but it sometimes happens. Because we are a high volume lower cost surgical facility wanting to help as many needy pets as possible. Urgent or emergency procedures as well as unanticipated surgical complications or delays can and do occasionally happen. If your pet is scheduled for an **ELECTIVE** (aka non life- threatening) and an animal with a life threatening emergency or surgical need comes in, **there is a CHANCE** your pet's elective procedure may get bumped to the next day. We know this can be disappointing and frustrating. We hope you will extend the same understanding and patience as you would hope and expect if **your pet** were the one in an emergency or life-threatening situation.
- ❖ **Add On Procedure:** although most of the time we are happy to accommodate add-on procedures (abdominal wall [hernia](#), [retained baby teeth](#), [cherry eye](#), [entropion](#), loosely attached or abnormally formed [rear dewclaws](#), and [stenotic nares](#) on [brachycephalic breeds](#)), there are occasions when additional procedure **may not** be possible and the ancillary procedure scheduled for a different day.

How about Dental Procedures?

- ❖ Your pet will have a full dental evaluation while under anesthesia including full mouth dental radiographs, scaling, oral examination with probing around each tooth, polishing, and fluoride. The doctor or staff **WILL NOT CALL** prior to tooth extraction(s) or treatment(s). All dental extractions receive a local long-acting anesthetic block as well as injectable pain medications. **Extractions are done at the veterinarian's discretion.** We do not pull healthy teeth.
- ❖ **STAGED (Additional dental Procedures):** It takes years for significant dental disease to develop and it is not uncommon that all work required cannot be performed in one procedure. This is why routine prophylactic dental cleanings either annually or semi-annually are recommended. **STAGED** (additional) dental procedures are at times required to treat all oral disease found during the anesthetized dental exam. **Additional fees for an additional procedure will apply.**
- ❖ You will be sent home with a copy of your pet's dental chart as well as detailed discharge instructions for review.

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What if my pet becomes ill after visiting your facility?

- ❖ As with children and people in public places, there is an increased risk of infection exposure anytime a pet enters any public place where multiple animals visit: this includes dog parks, daycare centers, boarding facilities, and veterinary clinics. While we do our best to ensure infection exposure is minimal, the possibility of contagion transfer does exist. The hospital is not liable for any signs of potential [contagious] illnesses which begin in your pet once they have left the hospital. If you feel your pet requires evaluation or treatment, please contact the hospital - additional fees will apply.*

What should I expect when I pick up my pet?

- ❖ You will receive written (and/or emailed) discharge instructions and all needed medications when you arrive. Please read carefully and refer to them often.
- ❖ **Read:** [Your Pet's Surgery: An Expert Guide to What to Expect](#) by Petful
- ❖ If your pet was **spayed / neutered** or had **abdominal surgery**, watch this [VIDEO](#) to help you take care of your pet after its surgical procedure.

Are we the right surgical facility for you?

Doctors and staff who limit their services to anesthesia, surgery, and dentistry are great at what they do because they are proficient and experienced. Our surgeons and dentists are very skilled at common surgical procedures and routine dental extractions. This allows them to be fast and efficient, meaning your pet spends less time under anesthesia. Efficiency is safer for your pet and allows us to help more pets per day. It is not uncommon for procedure veterinarians to perform 20+ procedures per day here at our practice.

It is important to realize that our surgeons and dentists are NOT board certified specialists - they are general practice veterinarians who limit their practice to surgery and dentistry. A board certified veterinary specialist (ie: surgeon, dentist, oncologist; cardiologist; radiologist). Board certified specialists have gone through additional training above and beyond veterinary school. These doctors have usually completed a 13-month internship program post graduation followed by 3-5 years of additional specialized residency training. Both internships and residency programs are highly competitive with only limited positions available per year. Board certified specialists are no-doubt the "best in their field" of expertise. Because we live in the Denver Metro area, we are lucky enough to have an abundance of veterinary specialists along the front range to service pets who have complex surgical or dental needs. It is always a general recommendation to have any complex [oral] surgery procedures (ie: large or invasive tumors/malignancies; surgery of the liver, pancreas, adrenal & parathyroid glands, jaw fractures, complicated extractions, as well etc.) performed by a board-certified surgeon or dentist. If interested in visiting a veterinary specialist, please consult with your primary veterinarian.

Veterinary consultations and diagnostics should be performed **PRIOR** to the day of surgery. Any pending post-op diagnostics, consultation about diagnosis, rechecks (above and beyond incisional care), or any additional medical conditions discovered during surgery should be performed by your primary veterinarian and will not be accommodated by the surgery service. Thank you for allowing us to have the opportunity to serve your pets' surgical and dental needs!