

Pre Anaesthetic Information

This handout is inform you on what happens on the day your pet has surgery and what you need to do to prepare your pet before they arrive.



Appointment date:

Admission time:

Preparing your pet for surgery:

- ✓ **Withholding food** – please ensure your pet has nothing to eat after 10.00 pm the night before the surgery. Water can be provided overnight
- ✓ **Toileting** – for cats, it is best to confine them the evening prior to surgery with a litter tray. For dogs, please take for an early morning walk for a chance to empty their bladder or bowels.

The day of the surgery:

- Appointment times for admissions are between 7.40am & 9am.
- Please allow at least 10 minutes for the admission of your pet with the veterinary nurse who will be caring for your pet during the day. Please feel free to ask any questions.
- **The nurse will also go through your pets anaesthetic consent form which will also require your signature.**
- Your pet can be admitted by appointment the evening before their operation, if this is more convenient.

Pre-anaesthetic Blood Tests:

Physical examinations alone will not identify all of your pet's health problems & all anaesthetics carry a degree of risk. The more information we have about your pet, inside and out, the more we can tailor their anaesthetic appropriately.

1. Reduce risks & consequences - If the pre-anaesthetic testing results are normal, we can proceed with confidence.
2. Detect hidden illness – Healthy looking pets may be hiding symptoms of a disease or ailment. Testing helps detect this kind of illness so we can avoid problems with anaesthesia.
3. These blood tests are recorded as part of your pet's medical records & provide a valuable baseline for ongoing care & health management.

Intravenous Fluid (I/V) therapy – a standard for all animals undergoing general anaesthesia

Anaesthesia or heavy sedation will cause a pronounced drop in blood pressure, especially if coupled with major surgery. I/V fluid therapy will maintain blood pressure during anaesthesia, help your pets body process and eliminate anaesthetic medications & will provide an immediate way to administer emergency drugs in the case of untoward events.

Pain relief:

An injection giving up to 24 hours of pain relief is given following surgery. Depending on your pet's pain threshold & the type of surgery performed, extended pain relief medication may be indicated. You can certainly request additional pain medication for your pet.

PET INSURANCE: if your pet has insurance please let our vet nurses know if you would like to process a claim