

SPAY/NEUTER GENERAL INFORMATION;

1. PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOOD TESTING

Pre-anesthetic testing helps us understand whether your pet's vital organs are functioning properly, which can help us create an individualized anesthetic plan for your pet and avoid potential complications during surgery.

Certain conditions are especially risky for pets under anesthesia, and pre-anesthetic blood work can show if there are any hidden or undetected health problems.

Regardless of why your pet is being anesthetized, pre-anesthetic testing establishes a baseline for their individual health, which is helpful for future reference.

Some basic blood tests can indicate whether your pet is properly hydrated and whether they have a protein deficiency, anemia, or a blood clotting disorder. This is a minimum data base for anesthesia in a healthy young animal. For pets with previous or current medical problems, a more extensive workup may be recommended, which could include blood and urine testing, as well as chest radiographs.

The cost of pre-anesthetic testing is NOT included in the quoted price of surgery for elective procedures (spays, neuters).

2. PRE-SURGICAL EXAMINATION

Every pet undergoing surgery should have a complete physical examination. If there has been a recent change in your pet's behaviour or health, this should be discussed. If there has been any previous medical problem or injury, we will need to have that information as well. If your pet has been to another veterinarian, we will request a copy of the medical records from that veterinarian.

While under anesthetic, we will check your pet's teeth for problems such as missing teeth, retained baby teeth, or crowding. If we were unable to finish fully examining your pet before surgery, then we will do so while your pet is undergoing anesthesia.

This examination is included in the quoted price of surgery for elective procedures.

3. INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS

You've probably heard of fluids given to human patients like "Ringers" or "Saline". These are given to treat and prevent dehydration and low blood pressure. There is a tendency for anesthesia to cause low blood pressure, which can lead to severe problems, including kidney and brain damage. This is why anesthetists consider intravenous fluid therapy a standard protocol for people and pets undergoing general anesthesia and surgery.

Intravenous fluids are included in the quoted price of surgery for elective procedures.

4. ANESTHESIA/PAIN CONTROL

The anesthetic given to pets is a combination of drugs for pain control and sedation. These are given by injection and by inhalation through an endotracheal tube placed in the windpipe as well as some medications given orally after the surgery. The anesthetic protocol may vary depending on individual characteristics of the pet, the medical history, and the requirements of the surgery. Pets undergoing surgery can have pain just like people, so it is important that we are ready to pre-empt any pain or suffering in whatever way we can. Your pet will go home with medication to help during their recovery. If at any time you think it isn't enough, please let us know.

All standard anesthetic and pain control medications are included in the quoted price of surgery for elective procedures.

5. ANESTHETIC MONITORING

Every pet will be closely monitored while under anesthetic. One person will be assigned to check and record anesthetic parameters such as anesthetic depth, blood oxygen concentration, blood pressure, patient temperature, heart rate and respiratory rate.

Anesthetic monitoring is included in the quoted price of surgery for elective procedures.

6. AFTER SURGERY

We give extensive verbal instructions for post-op care when you pick up your pet, and there is a summary sheet for you to take home for reference. You will be given phone numbers to call if you believe your pet is having problems, or you have an urgent question.

Restrictions are necessary in your pet's activity after surgery. These are very important, and may require you to carefully think about managing your pet during the early recovery period, and up to several weeks afterwards. You may have to keep them on a leash, even in the back yard. It may be necessary to assist them on stairs. You may need to use mild tranquilizers to keep them from being excessively active.

It is very important that your pet not lick or chew the surgery site and sutures. The safest precaution is to use a physical barrier. This could be an Elizabethan collar or a onesie. Any pet could potentially remove the sutures or lick the area until it is infected. Repair of an open or infected wound can be difficult and expensive. You are responsible for making sure your pet doesn't get the opportunity for this to happen. We highly recommend effective physical barrier devices. We can provide these. They are NOT included in the quoted price of surgery for elective procedures.

If there are skin sutures or staples, we will book an appointment for removal at no extra charge, usually 10-14 days after surgery.

7. OPTIONAL PROCEDURES [not included in the quoted price of surgery]

- Nail clipping
- Microchip insertion
- Dental procedures such as radiographs or extractions which may be recommended for your pet based on the dental examination performed while anesthetized are not included in the quoted price of surgery. These procedures will not be performed unless explicitly authorized by the owner or an authorized representative of the owner.

8. What can I do to prepare my pet for surgery?

- Make sure your pet has not eaten anything (fasted) at least 12 hours before surgery.
- Bring any medications your pet is taking and consider taking along a favorite toy. The comforts of home can be a great help to your pet during recovery.
- Ask questions if you don't understand what's being done or why. Surgery can be complicated, so it's important to know all you can about your pet's health.