

CLIENT ANESTHESIA INFORMATION

Your pet has been scheduled for general anesthesia in the near future. We know this can be a stressful process so we hope this information can help make it easier for you.

HOME PREPARATIONS

Starting to prepare your pet for anesthesia at home before their arrival can help to reduce risks. If you have been given alternate instructions for your procedure by our staff, please follow those. As always, call us if you have any questions.

The night before your pet's procedure:

- Withhold all food and treats after midnight (12 A.M.).
- Water can be made available as usual.

The morning of the procedure:

- Continue withholding all food and treats.
- Withhold water after 7 A.M.
- If your pet takes any medications, vitamins, etc., please consult with veterinary staff in advance for specific dosing instructions for the day of the procedure.
 - Walk your pet as usual unless otherwise directed. They need a chance to empty their bowel and bladder before anesthesia. This helps reduce anxiety while in the hospital.

If your pet has not been walked or there has been a mistake in the fasting schedule prior to drop off, please inform the staff.

ADMISSION PROCESS

The front desk will call you 24-48 hours in advance to schedule your pet's drop off time. This is usually between 8:00 A.M. and 8:30 A.M.

For your pet's safety, they need to arrive on a leash or in a carrier. If you need to borrow one, please inform the front desk.

During Registration:

- We will have you read and agree to all estimates and consent forms.
- Request phone numbers where we can reach you at any point during the day.
- Answer any questions about the estimate, procedure, billing and what to expect while your pet is in the hospital. If there is something you do not understand please ask for clarification.

Once all paperwork and questions have been answered medical staff will bring your pet to the pre-op area for their examination and any necessary testing.

Exam and Pre-Surgical Testing

Our greatest concern is the health and well-being of your pet. To minimize the risk that comes with anesthesia, the veterinarian will perform an admission physical when your pet enters the hospital. They will also review any recent lab tests or recommend certain tests be run the same day before undergoing anesthesia. These lab tests can help alert the clinician to complicating factors such as dehydration, anemia, infection, diabetes, organ dysfunction, heart disease and more. Knowing about these concerns prior to anesthesia helps your veterinarian make sound medical decisions.

Some of the recommended tests may include:

- Complete Blood Count (CBC) – Anemia, Infection, Clotting Disorders
- Chemistry Profile (Prep/Comprehensive)- Kidney, Liver, Blood Sugar, Dehydration, Electrolytes
- FELV/FIV Combo Test (For Cats Only)
- Radiographs – Heart Enlargement, Respiratory Disease, Tumors
- Electrocardiogram – records electrical signal from the heart to look for rhythm abnormalities

DURING THE SURGERY

Anesthesia

Your doctor will choose an anesthetic protocol they determine to be safest based on your pet's health status and procedure. Anesthesia always comes with some risk but your veterinarian is recommending this procedure because they feel the benefits outweigh the risks. If you have any questions about the anesthetic risks or the protocols used, please ask.

Intravenous Catheterization and Fluids

Every general anesthesia patient will have an IV catheter placed and be given intravenous fluids during the procedure. This allows us to prevent dehydration, provide support to the circulatory system and have quick access to administer medications rapidly if an emergency should arise.

Monitoring

During and after your pet's procedure a trained veterinary nurse (LVT) or veterinarian is with your pet. They are able to monitor vital signs and depth, or "plane", of anesthesia. Computerized monitoring equipment records heart rate, ECG, oxygen levels, respiration, blood pressure and body temperature.

Pain Management

Our hospital believes that quality medical care consists of adequate pain control. Most surgery patients will receive pain control before, during and after their procedure. Your pet may also be discharged with pain medication to continue during recovery.

RECOVERY

Your pet's veterinarian will contact you once your pet is in recovery. They will update you on the status of your pet and answer any questions you have at that time. We ask that you call back approximately 2 hours later to check on your pet's status and schedule the discharge appointment.

When you arrive at the hospital to pick up your pet, the receptionist will review the final billing with you. If you have any questions please ask. You will receive a copy of your discharge instructions, your invoice, and your pet's medications, if any. A nurse, or veterinarian, will go over post-operative instructions with you. These instructions are important for your pet's recovery so if any part of the instructions is unclear, please let us know before you leave.

We appreciate that you have entrusted us with your pet's care. We hope to make this procedure as easy as possible for you and your pet. If you need anything from us before or after your procedure, please reach out to us at: (914) 271-6222 or crotonah@gmail.com