

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### General Information:

- Your pet must be in good health. If your pet shows any sign of illness such as coughing, sneezing, skin infection, runny eyes or diarrhea we may not perform surgery. Please advise your veterinarian of any concerns prior to surgery.
- Your pet should be vaccinated at least two weeks prior to surgery. Your pet will be around a lot of other animals and could be exposed to something. It takes two weeks for a vaccination to become fully effective. We can administer vaccines on the day of surgery, but they are not guaranteed to protect animals while they are here with other animals in our clinic. We do require an up to date rabies for our surgical patients.

### The Night Before Surgery:

- Do NOT allow pet to eat any food after 10pm the night before surgery.
- You may allow your pet to have water.
- If your pet normally stays outdoors overnight, he/she must stay indoors the evening before surgery. This ensures that the animal's stomach is empty by the time they're put under general anesthesia. This reduces the chances that the animal will vomit and aspirate the vomit into the lungs. If your pet has eaten on the morning of surgery, we will ask to reschedule.

### The Day of Surgery:

- **No food or treats this morning.**
- You may allow your dog to have water
- **Drop your pet off at the Hospital in the morning between 7:30 - 8:00 am.** Please allow 10-15 minutes for check in.
- You must complete the necessary paperwork upon arrival. To save time the morning of your appointment, you are welcome to use our surgical form found on our website.



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Explanation of the Anesthesia/Surgery Release Form:

**First a few notes on surgery and monitoring:** All pets are monitored under anesthesia with pulse oximetry to measure the oxygen saturation of their blood, ECG to monitor electrical impulses of the heart and heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate and cardiac auscultation to ensure pets are stable under anesthesia. Pets are intubated with an endotracheal tube for anesthesia. This ensures that we have a patent airway to deliver oxygen and inhaled anesthetic gas.

**Blood screening tests:** Pre-operative blood work screening is recommended in all pets, especially geriatric pets. However, this is an optional service. Pre-operative blood work consists of a CBC or complete blood count to assess red blood cell, white blood cell and platelet levels. This also comes with a small chemistry panel to assess kidney, liver, pancreatic function and electrolytes. Decreases or elevations in these values may raise concern for possible disease processes and may result in us post-poning your pets surgery if they are altered enough to raise concern for your pet undergoing anesthesia and may require further work up.

**Microchipping:** Microchipping is an optional service. Placing a microchip does require a pretty large gauge needle which can be uncomfortable which is why we tend to like to place these while they are under anesthesia and won't be in discomfort. A microchip can certainly be placed any time, we just find it is more comfortable for the pet to do it while they are under anesthesia.

**CPR:** While there is always risk under going anesthesia, most pets will do well. However, in the event your pet's heart should stop beating while under anesthesia we need to have a code status to know if you would want us to intervene and perform CPR versus allow your pet to pass naturally. It is more likely to get a pet back when they code under anesthesia than if they were to code in a different situation. We will reverse all sedative medications, provide breaths and chest compression and administer any necessary medication such as epinephrine, etc. If your pet has a pre-existing condition the odds for a successful CPR may be lower.

**Dental Radiographs:** We offer full mouth dental x-rays to assess for disease below the gum line just like you would have done at your dentist! A pet can have diseased teeth below the gum line even when the crown (visible portion) of the teeth appear normal.

