

All anaesthetics carry a small risk. We minimise this risk to our patients in a number of ways:-

- **Pre-anaesthetic checks** - the vet always examines a patient before giving an anaesthetic.
- **Pre-anaesthetic blood tests** - this blood test is offered to all owners for their pets and is particularly useful for picking up unsuspected problems, e.g kidney disease, diabetes, etc that can be present and show no clinical signs.
- **Choosing the right anaesthetic** - we use **Gold Standard** anaesthetics throughout the practice. **Rapinovel** is a drug that is very short acting. As a result recovery is very rapid, smooth and pleasant. This may cost a little more than some older anaesthetic agents but, due to its safety profile and speed of elimination from the body, we feel it is the best option as our main induction agent. **Isoflurane** is our anaesthetic gas of choice for the same reasons as rapinovel so making our anaesthetic regime so much safer for your pet.

Is my pet too old to have an anaesthetic?

Age is not a barrier. We often give anaesthetics to very old patients (19-20+) with few problems. It is the presence of disease that increases the risk. Hence, the importance of the pre anaesthetic blood screen. Older animals are much more likely to require anaesthetics due to bad teeth & gums, tumours etc. The longer these problems are left, the longer the anaesthetic required and the more severe the disease which may become life threatening, so concentration on preventative control, early diagnosis and intervention is the key to only needing simple quick solutions. In particular, it is now well established that bad teeth can cause kidney, heart and chest problems as well as a sore mouth.

We try to send animals home to their home environment as soon as possible. Please follow carefully the instructions given to you for the recovery period. If you are concerned or unsure about any aspect of the recovery please do not hesitate to phone the practice - we always endeavour to have a vet or nurse available to speak to you.

We understand how worried you are when you have to leave your pet for an operation. Do ask as much as possible as to what we are likely to do and how we think things will develop. Please do phone for a progress report after 2pm ideally rather than sit at home and worry about how things are going. Remember, no news is good news as things are obviously going according to plan!

Pre-operative Information

Your pet has an appointment for
treatment on
Please bring him/her to our surgery
Between/at for the following
Operation/procedure

Payment is due at the time of treatment.

We regret that we are unable to offer credit facilities.
We are happy to accept payment by Cash, Cheque and most major Credit/Debit Cards

If your pet is insured please bring your certificate and a claim form with you on the day.

Drove Veterinary Hospital
24 hour emergency cover for all species

What do I do before I bring my pet in?

NO FOOD after 8pm the night before - an empty stomach is essential. Cats should be kept in so they do not hunt and are easily caught in the morning. Water can be freely available overnight. Please ensure your pet goes to the toilet prior to coming to the surgery. For safety, please have dogs on leads and cats in baskets.

What happens on the day of the procedure?

Admission

On the day scheduled to perform the procedure your pet will be admitted by a Nurse (or Vet) who will discuss the plan for the day, after checking a few details with you. If you are uncertain whether your pet has eaten please ensure you advise us.

Please ensure that you leave daytime telephone number(s) that you can be contacted upon.

If a pre-anaesthetic screen has been requested a blood sample will be taken and tested in our laboratory. The vet, who will be undertaking the procedure, will examine the results. If there are any abnormalities they will contact you to discuss.

Premed

Your pet will be taken to its kennel/cage where a premed will be administered. This is a small injection that relaxes the patient. It reduces anxiety, aids a smoother anaesthetic and safer recovery. Within 10-20 minutes the patient is usually relaxed and becomes quite sleepy.

Anaesthetic and Procedure

When the vet is ready to start the procedure anaesthetic is administered. This is usually via a vein on the front leg and necessitates a small amount of hair being clipped away. The patient is normally asleep within seconds. A tube is passed down the throat in order to sustain an airway whilst asleep, and to maintain the anaesthetic using carefully measured amounts of Oxygen, Nitrous Oxide and Isoflurane.

Throughout all procedures the vets are assisted by a highly trained nursing team. They continually assess the patient's condition utilising the latest equipment to monitor vital signs - heart, respiratory, blood/gas levels, etc.

Recovery

Once the procedure is completed pure oxygen is administered and the patient rapidly wakes up. Once the swallowing reflex has returned the tube is removed. The patients are then returned to their heated kennel/cage and monitored closely by the ward nurse. Once the vet is content that recovery has been non-eventful and complete the patient will be ready for discharge.

Progress and Discharge

We understand that you will be anxious to know how your pet is and when you can collect them. However, please do not phone before 2.00pm as procedures are conducted throughout the day and your pet may not have had sufficient time to recover. Your pet may go home once recovery is complete. An appointment with a Nurse will be provided to discuss the procedure and any post-operative care that will be necessary.

A small number of pets may suffer a sensitive throat for 24 hours as a result of the tube. This is quite normal and you should not be concerned.

Post Op Checks

In general, following surgery we will provide two FREE consultations, usually on days three and ten. All subsequent surgical checks for ongoing management and treatment, subsequent surgery, drugs and consumables are chargeable.

All medical consultations following hospitalisation are chargeable.

Complications

Unfortunately, no procedure can be guaranteed and unforeseen problems may be encountered. Should this be the case the vet will contact you with their findings. Therefore, it is important that you can be contacted during the day. Remember no news is good news.

Anaesthetics

Anaesthetics are drugs, administered by injection or gas, to make an animal unconscious and to relieve pain. We use anaesthetics daily to help us perform all sorts of procedures, from X-Rays to complex surgery.