

Surgery / Anesthetic Procedures



Please read through the following packet to help make your pet's surgery day as stress-free as possible. We endeavor to make your pet's procedure as safe as we can.

What must I do prior to my pet's surgery?

1. Withhold any food and treats after 10PM the night before surgery. Water can be left available.
2. If you are currently giving any medication, do not give the morning dose unless instructed to do so by the doctor.
3. Check your pet in at our clinic between 7:00-8:30AM the day of their surgery. You are welcome to drop your pet off the night before if that is more convenient for your schedule.

What is involved in your pet's surgery?

- **Surgical Laser-** We always strive to use the latest technologies to better serve you and your pet. The surgical laser ensures your pet will have less swelling and a less painful recovery.
- **Pre-Surgical Physical Exam-** Understanding your pet's physical condition is extremely important when considering any procedures on your companion. If the animal has any major physical conditions present, different complications may occur during surgery.
- **Pre-anesthetic Blood Work-** All procedures that require anesthesia include pre-anesthetic blood work. This is done during the physical exam before we sedate the animal and lets us know the pet's internal status and helps us create a safe anesthetic plan. This also gives a baseline for future reference, should the pet become ill in the future. Performing pre-anesthetic blood screening will help us find problems with the kidneys, liver and various electrolytes. Since the kidneys and liver are needed to properly metabolize the anesthetic, they must be in good condition or the animal would be at risk. If this were the case, we would call you and re-evaluate the situation. **Additional bloodwork is required for all pets over 6 years of age – see Page 3 for more details.**
- **Mild Sedative-** A mild injectable sedative is given to make your pet sleepy, reducing stress and helping with pain control.
- **Gas Anesthesia-** Once your pet is sedated, an endotracheal tube is placed into the trachea, or windpipe, to allow administration of the gas anesthetic and oxygen. Gas anesthesia is preferred because it is easier to adjust based on each animal's response throughout the procedure. It also leaves the system quickly allowing your pet to wake faster and more safely.
- **Licensed Veterinary Technician-** Our technician monitors your pet while under every anesthetic procedure to make sure he/she is doing well. Every 5 minutes your pet's vitals are recorded by the technician, as well as providing hands on assistance with surgical procedures.
- **Vitals Monitoring-** When your pet is put onto the gas anesthesia, their vital signs will be monitored. This includes monitoring the heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation of the blood, carbon dioxide levels, and core body temperature. These vital signs will be continuously monitored and recorded throughout the entire procedure.
- **Ventilator-** The anesthetic machine is attached to a State of the Art Ventilator. When a pet is anesthetized they are not capable of breathing efficiently, which can be very dangerous. This machine breathes for your companion throughout the procedure. Anesthetic safety is our utmost concern and this is why we use this highly sophisticated piece of equipment on every anesthetic procedure.
- **Surgical Thermal Pad-** Your pet's ability to regulate their body temperature does not function during anesthesia. The warm air thermal blanket helps your companion regulate their body temperature and in the long run helps them feel cozier and safer as they wake up.

- **Intravenous Fluid Administration**- Fluids are always given when sedating for any reason. Intravenous fluids are administered by placing an intravenous catheter into your pet's vein, usually on one of their front legs. Fluids are given throughout the entire procedure. This helps with maintaining blood pressure in addition to providing venous access in the extremely rare cases where life-saving medications are needed.
- **Antibiotic Injection**- An injection of antibiotics is administered to the animal after the procedure is done but before they wake up.
- **Pain Relief Medication**- A pain medication is given with the pre-anesthetic exam so when the procedure is done the pet already has pain medications on board. This medication will last until late that evening and provides your pet with a level of comfort. The type of medication we give is also known to help with inflammation, therefore helping to reduce swelling after the procedure.
- **Take Home Pain Medications**- We send home two to three days' worth of an anti-inflammatory pain medication to give at home while your pet recovers. The extended pain management helps the pet to recover smoothly and in a timely manner, faster than a pet without any pain medications.

Additional Services (additional costs apply)

Therapy Laser

The therapy laser aids in wound healing and pain management. This special laser is used following your pet's surgery and can speed up recovery time and reduce inflammation at the site. Request this when you drop your pet off for surgery – it is an inexpensive way to give your pet an easier recovery.

Microchipping

What is a microchip?

The American Kennel Club's Companion Animal Recovery has a new microchip System. This newly designed system is implanted just between the shoulder blades and below the skin of the pet. The microchip is a tiny computer chip, just about the size of a grain of rice.

What is the benefit of Microchipping my pet?

You may think your pet will never become lost, but accidents happen. Did you know 1 in 3 pets will become lost in their lifetime? No matter how closely you keep an eye on your beloved pet, there is a possibility they may escape. And with no proper identification, they will be extremely hard to find. Sure, tags and collars are a great start, but they are not 100% reliable like a microchip.

How long does the Microchip last?

Microchips have no internal power source, like a battery. So once implanted it will remain in place and stay active for the remainder of your pet's life.

How early can puppies or Kittens be injected with a Microchip?

Your pet can be microchipped as early as six to eight weeks of age. The same size microchip and needle are used in pets even smaller than puppies, kittens and toy breeds, including mice, baby birds, and even fish.

Could my pet be allergic to the Microchip?

The microchip is inert, smooth, nontoxic and nonallergenic. Microchip companies say there is virtually no chance of the body developing an allergy or trying to reject the microchip.

How does the Microchip Identification work?

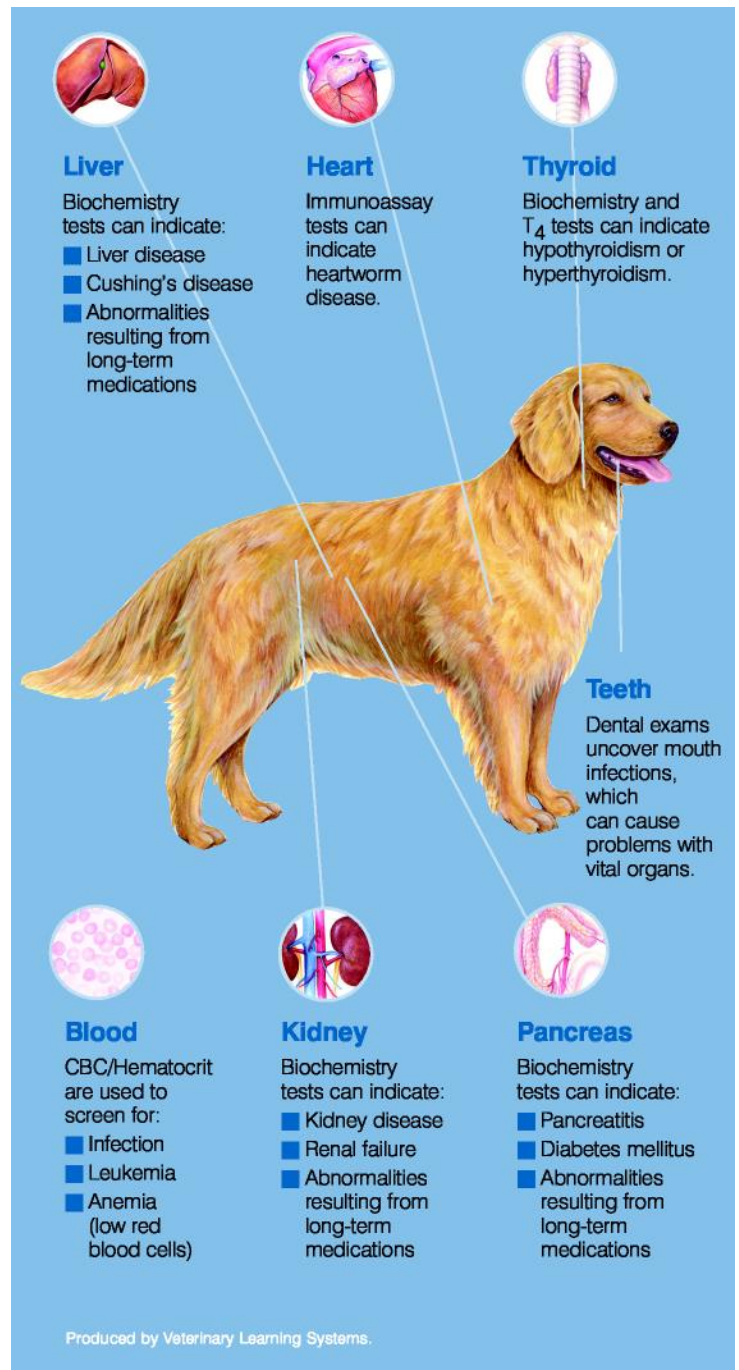
They are designed to produce up to 275 billion different Identification numbers. If your pet is found by the local shelter, the professionals there will use a special handheld scanner which sends a radio signal to the chip and then reads the chip number.

Why is bloodwork important for your pet?

When your pet comes to our clinic for a procedure, we start with a comprehensive physical exam. This gives us a general view of your pet's health, but does not give the full internal picture.

Pre-anesthetic bloodwork allows us to screen for underlying health concerns. We also check liver and kidney values to make sure your pet can safely be administered the anesthetic.

For any procedure that is being done on an animal six years of age or older, or for all of our dental patients, a comprehensive blood screening is performed. When pets age, and especially when they have bad teeth, they can start to have problems with several of their internal organs. Dental disease can lead to kidney, liver, lung, and/or heart disease. Running a full blood screening will help us to find out problems with these organs as well as the percentage of red blood cells and electrolyte levels. Since many of these organs are needed to properly metabolize the anesthetic, they have to be in good condition or the animal could be at risk. If this was the case, then we would call you and re-evaluate the situation.



This comprehensive bloodwork is highly recommended and can be performed on pets of all ages – if you would like to take advantage of the surgical discount on this panel, please opt in for the 'Gold Package' when you bring your pet in for surgery.

After Surgery Care



Keep your pet on a leash at all times when outside until you are instructed otherwise. Keep your pet calm and rested while inside. This may involve resting your pet in a crate to minimize activity.



Read all discharge information provided to you, and be sure to ask if you have any questions.



Make all scheduled recheck appointments.



Call our clinic if you have any questions following surgery and keep the doctor informed if there are any concerns or behavior changes.



Make certain the entire family understands that your pet needs restricted activity. Emphasize that all outside time must be on a leash and that there is to be no playing.



Follow all activity restrictions and recommendations, but please call for advice if you are having difficulties or if it is adding stress to your pet or family.



Our clinic is open weekdays from 7 am to 7 pm, Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm, and Sundays from 1pm to 3 pm. If problems occur when we are not open, please contact Veterinary Emergency Services at 402-489-6800.



Use the E.Collar “Cone” (if provided) at all times to prevent your pet from reaching the surgery site.