



Your Pet Is Scheduled For Anesthesia

What to expect for your pet's procedure

While anesthesia is essential for the veterinarian to perform surgery, dentistry, and some more advanced procedures, we also know that these days can be stressful for pet owners. Below is a general guide of what to expect for your pet's anesthetic procedure, as well as some common questions that we can hopefully help answer ahead of time.

Drop Off: Most admit times are scheduled between 7:00am and 7:45am, and typically last about 15 minutes. During this time, our surgery technicians will review the estimate that was provided for you and will likely ask several questions regarding your preferences for your pet. These may include:

- Would you like a nail trim for your pet? (Complimentary with anesthesia)
- Do you need us to provide you with an e-collar?
- May we update your pet's pre-surgical blood screen today? (If not previously done)
- Would you like your pet microchipped for permanent identification?

The doctor performing the procedure will be available at this time to answer any remaining questions you may have, and to confirm the plan for the day with non-routine cases.

Morning Prep: After your pet has been admitted, the surgery team will be hard at work! Every patient receives a thorough pre-anesthetic exam, and bloodwork is performed and reviewed by the veterinarian before they select the appropriate medications that will be used for each patient.

Anesthesia Prep: When it is time to begin the pet's procedure, our surgical technicians administer a pre-anesthetic sedation before the IV catheter is placed to reduce stress and keep them relaxed. Anesthesia is induced, and an endotracheal tube is placed when needed. For surgical procedures, the site is clipped and prepped, and monitoring equipment is connected to the patient.

Surgical/Procedure Time: Once the pet is fully anesthetized, the veterinarian will perform the surgical or dental procedure. The surgical technicians monitor the patient under anesthesia and record their vitals.

Recovery: After surgery is complete, the surgical technicians take special care to make sure your pet recovers smoothly after anesthesia. The breathing tube is removed, and monitors are removed. IV catheters and bandages are removed, and the patient is cleaned up prior to going home.

Discharge: Patients are typically scheduled to go home between 3:00 and 5:00pm. This ensures that they have had adequate time for recovery, their charts and records are completed, post-surgical medications are filled, and they are cleaned up and ready to go home for a good night's rest! Your technician will review postanesthetic care as well.

Frequently Asked Questions - Surgery

Am I able to drop off later in the day?

Due to the number of patients present each day for surgical, dental, and other anesthetic procedures, we reserve our admittance time in the morning for our clients to drop off. This allows us to have the time to review the full plan, ask all of the necessary questions, and ensure nothing is missed. Since our team is busy with the patients later in the day, we typically do not accept late drop-offs.

Why is it so important that my pet is fasted?

Many of the anesthetic medications used have the potential to cause vomiting. When patients vomit and are becoming sedate, they are at a much higher risk of complications such as aspiration. Having patients fasted not only reduces the chances of vomiting, but also reduces the risk of more severe complications. For pets with a higher risk of vomiting or the inability to be fasted (typically in cases of emergency procedures), anti-nausea injectable medication may be given.

What time of day will my pet's procedure be?

Often the surgical order for the day is based on many factors including the number of other types of procedures that are scheduled for each day, as well as if any procedures take longer than expected. While the surgical team may have an estimated time frame in the morning, these are subject to change.

Do they really need to wear the cone (e-collar)?

Licking of the incision site is one of the more common complications we see for patients after surgical procedures, as the e-collar is the best method of prevention. We certainly prefer to prevent complications in any way possible, though in some cases a surgical body suit or donut collar may be acceptable.

How am I going to keep my puppy rested during recovery with all of this energy?

We know how hard it can be to restrict activity on many pets, especially young puppies. Overactivity can certainly increase the risk of swelling, fluid accumulation, and suture failure. Please bring these concerns up to the surgical team at your admittance appointment to discuss options we can recommend, which may include mild sedative medications if needed.

Does my pet need to stay overnight?

With the rare exception of some emergency surgeries performed late in the day, almost all of our surgeries are discharged on the same day of surgery between 3 and 5pm.

My pet doesn't handle anesthesia well, is there a way to help with the side effects?

Every pet is different, which is why it is a good thing that we tailor our anesthetic medications specific to each individual patient. Please bring up any anesthetic concerns with your surgical team, as they may be able to adjust the medications used or add additional medications to help counteract some of the unwanted side effects for a smoother recovery.