

Surgical Information Sheet

Dear Valued Client,

Your pet has been scheduled for a surgical or dental procedure in the near future. In our attempt to assist our clients, we put together this information sheet to make surgery and recovery days as easy and stress-free as possible. Please read all the enclosed information carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us.

On your pet's surgery day, you will fill out a medical authorization form and sign a procedure estimate. We require a phone number(s) where you can be reached on the day of surgery while your pet is in hospital. Failure to be reached while your pet is here with us may result in postponement and/or cancellation of the procedure.

The night before your pet's surgery or dental:

- Withhold all food and treats after 10:00 PM. This is to reduce risks of regurgitation and aspiration during their anesthetic procedure. If your pet is not fasted, we may have to reschedule your pet's procedure. It is for THEIR safety.
- Withhold water after 7:00 AM on the morning of the procedure and/or dental.
- If your pet is on any daily medications, vitamins, or injections please read the information below.

Please withhold morning doses of any oral medications or vitamins unless instructed by your veterinarian. Most surgical procedures, and dentals will require a pre-operative visit. If your pet is on daily medications and is scheduled for a surgery or dental, please ask the technician or veterinarian whether your pet will need their morning medications on the day of surgery, or not. At the time of drop off, our team will be happy to answer any questions and address any concerns you may have.

Please make arrangements to drop your pet off on the day of surgery at 8:30 AM, unless you have made other arrangements with the veterinary staff in advance. Remember, they need to be FASTED. ☺

Our veterinary nurse will escort your pet to the back where they will await their surgery or dental procedure. We do require pre-anesthetic blood work to be done, if your pet has had blood work done at a visit within one month of a procedure, we typically will not require more blood work to be done before surgery, depending on the pet's condition. The doctors may suggest additional blood work prior to surgery.

You are welcome to call and check on your pets' status, however, we request that you allow plenty of time for your pets' procedure to be done. We will call you when your pet's procedure is finished, and they are coming out of anesthesia. We will monitor them for as long as we deem necessary after anesthesia, we ask that you please be patient with us as your pet is our priority.

When you arrive to take your pet home, the receptionist will bill you out, and the veterinary nurse will go over medications, and discharge instructions verbally. We will have you sign a copy acknowledging we went over these instructions with you, a copy will also be sent with you to refer back to. If you do not understand the instructions or have any questions or concerns regarding your pet's post-op recovery, do not hesitate to call us. We are here to help!

We hope surgery day will be a pleasant experience. Remember, our team understands surgery can be an anxious time for all, and we want you to know we are here for you.

Patient care, comfort, and well-being are our top priorities here at All Valley Pet Hospital. Before being put under anesthesia our doctors routinely perform a full physical exam. Pre-Anesthetic blood work is also routinely done to maximize patient safety. Pre-Anesthetic blood work informs the surgeon of the presence of dehydration, infection, potential liver and kidney diseases, anemia, and other health complications such as diabetes. Sometimes, these conditions cannot be detected without pre anesthetic blood work thus not allowing for the most appropriate and safe anesthetic induction method.

ANESTHETIC PROCEDURES & RISKS

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications/injectables and/or inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimal levels of anesthesia that are safe for your pet. For short procedures, an injectable anesthetic is given alone that produces a good plane of surgical anesthesia that can be reversed and allows for a quick recovery.

For most procedures, your pet is anesthetized and then intubated (insertion of intubation tube into the trachea or windpipe). This will ensure that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times and prevents aspiration of any fluids into the lungs.

Anesthesia is maintained as a gas anesthetic with isoflurane, which is very safe and is not metabolized by the body. This allows us to have more control over anesthetic depth and is less irritating to the airways. Another advantage to isoflurane is a quick induction using a mask if for whatever reason intubation does not happen.

Monitoring and Pain management are taken very seriously. A veterinary nurse/technician is with your pet from start to end of the procedure. We have computerized monitoring systems that record heart rate, pulse rate, oxygen levels, respiration, ECG, and core and rectal temperatures. Our clinic believes in compassionate, quality medical care for our patients. All surgical patients receive pain management before, during, and after surgery. Additionally, some form of pain medication will be sent home after a surgical procedure or dental extraction visit.

INTRAVENOUS CATHETERIZATION & FLUIDS

All surgical and dental procedures under general anesthesia require the placement of an IV catheter, and the administration of IV fluids while under anesthesia. This allows us to have quick, available access to the circulatory (blood) stream in case of a unforeseen emergency. The fluids help provide support to the circulatory system and prevent dehydration, as well as a quicker recovery from anesthesia.

POST ANESTHESIA

Precautions That Should Be Observed After General Anesthesia: Your pet may be groggy for about 12 hours after anesthesia. Therefore, it is important to assist your pet when getting into or out of automobiles and walking and climbing up or down steps. At home, confine your pet to prevent accidents. Pacing, disorientation, and vocalization may occur on recovery. These signs may persist for 6-8 hours or more. Call your clinician if abnormal behavior persists. Food and water may be given (unless otherwise instructed by the clinician) but should be given only in small amounts. As the anesthetic agents wear off, your pet may experience slight discomfort. If your pet is in severe pain, contact us, your veterinarian, or the emergency clinic immediately. It

is best to restrict children from pets for 18 to 24 hours; your pet may experience residual anesthesia and possible postoperative pain.

It is important for our clients to understand that even with animals there is always a risk that comes with anesthetic surgical procedures. We strive to take the highest quality care of your pet and take all the added precautions you allow, to avoid potential problems. Thank you for entrusting us with your pet.

**Dr. Jagbir S. Kahlon D.V.M.
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