

## Small Mammal Preoperative Information Sheet

Date of Procedure:

Procedure:

Your pet is going to have an operation which requires an anaesthetic agent to be given. We hope this leaflet will make you more aware of the procedures involved.

### PREPARATION

Treat your pet as normal with food and water prior to bringing them to the surgery. Due to their fast metabolism, small mammals require an almost constant intake of nutrients, and starvation of any length could be detrimental to their well-being.

### ADMISSION

Bring your pet to the surgery for admission at your appointment time. For small pets like hamsters, mice or rats, bring them to the surgery either in their everyday cage or a smaller version. Rabbits and guinea-pigs are best transported in a sturdy cardboard box which is enclosed, to make them feel more secure. Don't forget to bring a small portion of food for the day. One of our support staff will admit your pet and ask you to sign a consent form to allow us to carry out the procedure, please take time to read this thoroughly before you sign to ensure all the details are correct, and do not hesitate to discuss any concerns with the staff member.

### THE OPERATION

Once admitted, your pet will be weighed, examined and then moved to an area in the surgery which is kept quiet especially for our more anxious/shy patients. This gives them time to recover from any stress from the journey. During the anaesthetic your pet is continually monitored by nursing staff both manually and electronically. As small animals lose body heat rapidly during anaesthesia, a heated pad is beneath the patient during the procedure and occasionally warmed fluids are needed. After the operation your pet will be placed in a heated kennel and observed until fully recovered. We aim to allow your pet home between 3.30 – 3.00 pm, but as small pets may take longer to recover from anaesthetic than anticipated, collection could be later in the afternoon. A member of staff will let you know any special aftercare or details of the procedure.

### AFTERCARE AT HOME

It is advisable that all small pets are kept warm on their first night home. Rabbits that are usually kept outdoors could be brought indoors in the hutch, or have the hutch front covered with a blanket to keep out draughts. Continue to feed and water your pet as before but do take extra notice that they are eating and drinking enough. Also take care to check your pet thoroughly, especially if they have had any stitches, to make sure that they are intact and that the wound continues to look healthy.

You may be asked to come back to the surgery for follow up consultations with either a veterinary surgeon or the head nurse, but do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or queries at any time