

Preoperative Information Sheet

Date of Procedure:

Procedure:

Your pet is going to have an operation which requires an anaesthetic to be given. We hope this leaflet will make you more aware of the procedures involved. However, if you have any queries or concerns about your pet's operation, do not hesitate to contact the surgery.

PREPARATION

Food must be withheld from 9pm the evening prior to your pet's operation – this is vital as anaesthetics combined with food can cause vomiting and add risks to an operation. **NO FOOD SHOULD BE ALLOWED THE MORNING OF THE OPERATION.** Please allow your dog a short walk with an opportunity to go the toilet before you come to the surgery. Cats should be kept indoors from the previous evening. Water can be freely given until you leave home.

ADMISSION

Bring your pet to the surgery at your appointment time on the day of the operation. The support staff will admit your pet and give you instructions on when to phone the surgery for a progress report. You will be asked to give permission for us to perform the procedure by signing an anaesthetic consent form; we ask that you read this thoroughly prior to signing to ensure all details are correct. One section of the form will give us permission to run a pre-operative blood test. We recommend this service although it is of particular importance in older animals. The charge for this blood test is £35. It is a valuable tool in that it can warn us of problems in important organs such as the liver and kidneys, and can identify such illnesses as Diabetes.

THE OPERATION

Once admitted your pet will be given an examination and then a pre-med injection in order that they feel more relaxed and prepared for the anaesthetic. During the operation the surgeon will be assisted by one or more of our nurses, who will monitor your pet's anaesthesia. After the operation your pet will be placed for recovery in a heated kennel, and again monitored regularly until consciousness is fully regained. We endeavour to return all animals to their owners during the afternoon of their operation unless it has been pre-arranged that the vet will see you during evening surgery. A nurse will be on hand to answer any questions that you may have.

AFTERCARE

Details of immediate aftercare will be given when you collect your pet from the surgery. We recommend that only small, light meals or any prescribed diets are offered in the evening – usually after 7pm, but water can be made available from returning home. Any medication should be started the morning after the operation unless stated otherwise. You may be asked to return for a post-operative check 2 – 4 days after the operation. This check will be with either a vet or nurse, and is to make sure that wounds are healing properly and animals are recovering well. Dressings (if present) may be removed/changed at this time. Stitches are usually removed 10 – 14 days after the operation.