



Pre-Operative Information

ADMISSION TIME

Please bring your pet to the surgery on the agreed date and time. It is important for your pet to eat after surgery, therefore we request you bring a portion of their normal food. The admission will take approximately 15 minutes; this will enable the vet or nurse to explain the consent form to you before you sign it.

FOOD & WATER

The following guidelines are recommended:

Cat and dogs: for most of our patients, food should be withdrawn 4-6 hours prior to anaesthesia. Exceptions to this are patients less than 8 weeks of age or who weigh less than 2 kg, we recommend starvation for only 1-2 hours prior to anaesthesia, and diabetic patients, who should be starved for 2-4 hours.

For brachycephalic (flat faced) patients e.g., pug, French bulldog, we recommend a pre op assessment 3-4 days prior to their procedure. We will prescribe omeprazole, a drug which reduces stomach acid and, therefore, reduces the risk of gastroesophageal reflux, vomiting and nausea. We also recommend they have a small meal on the morning of the operation, 3-4 hours before they are due to arrive at the surgery.

Small furrries (rabbits, guinea pigs, etc) - please do NOT withhold their food, they can even have some in their pet carrier. Owners are welcome to bring their pets favourite foods to encourage them to eat more quickly after the GA.

Ferrets - withdraw food 3-4 hours prior to the anaesthesia to reduce the risk of regurgitation.

Water should be left down on the morning of the surgery. Please keep cats in overnight with a litter tray. Dogs should be taken out on a lead in the morning before attending the surgery. Please ensure your pet is free from mud, dirt, and debris.

ANAESTHETIC CONSENT FORM

When you arrive with your pet on the morning of the operation you will be asked to sign a 'Procedure Consent Form'. This form gives permission for anaesthetic administration and surgical procedures. The form consists of questions relating to the procedure and requires you to give consent with a signature. All anaesthetic procedures carry some risk, but this is usually very small.

PRE-OPERATIVE BLOOD TESTS

You will be asked whether you would like your pet to have a 'Pre-op blood test'. This enables us to check if you pet has any kidney or liver problems – not yet clinically apparent, which would increase the anaesthetic risk to your animal. Red & white blood cells are also checked, which may highlight signs of infection or disease.

The vet may then amend the anaesthetic protocol or initiate a course of treatment prior to the operation. The pre-op blood test is recommended for all animals, however, as a matter of protocol we strongly recommend pre-op blood tests for all dogs over the age of 6 and cats over the age of 8.

PRE-OPERATIVE INTRAVENOUS FLUID THERAPY

You will be asked whether you would like your pet to have Intravenous Fluid Therapy (IVFT). IVFT helps to maintain the patient's blood pressure during surgery. It can also help support other vital organs process anaesthetic medications. If the patient's blood pressure becomes low during surgery, we will respond with IVFT for their safety.

ALLERGIES & PREVIOUS SURGERIES

Please indicate on the consent form if your pet has any allergies to any medication and bring this to the attention of the admission vet or nurse. Please also tell the vet or nurse if your pet has any serious diseases/conditions e.g., Heart disease, Diabetes, Epilepsy, etc. Also indicate if they are receiving any medication currently. Please have information of the drug name, drug strength, dose they are receiving and the time the drug was last administered.

ADMISSIONS

Once the form has been completed and signed, your pet will be admitted. Bloods will then be taken if requested and if not already completed. They will then receive a sedative and pain relief injection. Sedatives are used to calm your pet and reduce the dose of anaesthetic required, thereby reducing the risk of anaesthesia further. Pain relief is given to limit the pain response that is caused during a surgical procedure, we ensure each pet receives a carefully calculated dose to ensure their pain is always controlled.

Next, they will be given a full general anaesthetic; we have a range of injectable and gaseous anaesthetics. Your Veterinary Surgeons will choose which anaesthetic regime will suit your animal's individual needs. Veterinary Nurses (VN) continually monitor every anaesthetic, multi-parameter monitors are used to give us as much information as possible. After the surgery, they will be monitored by the dedicated recovery VN until fully conscious. Vital signs and pain scoring is completed at regular intervals throughout their recovery.

COLLECTIONS

We aim to have most procedures completed by 3pm, however we do treat emergency cases which may alter the time your pet has their procedure. We will call or text you to inform you when they are in recovery and arrange a collection time that is convenient for you. We can discharge patients up to 7pm. Your pet may still be a little drowsy when you collect them. The discharge nurse will explain how to care for them over the next few days, along with a further post-op check date.

INSURANCE

We are happy to process your insurance claim and submit it for you. Claims can be submitted with a physical claims form that you can obtain for your insurance company, (please ensure all your details, including name of insurance company, policy number, email address, excess amount, and what condition you are claiming for are filled in). If you are insured with Pet Plan you can submit your claim through their online submission form, and it will come directly to us. You can also submit your insurance claim via email.

Please be aware that any direct claims (where the insurance company pays us direct) must be pre-authorised.

DECLARATION BY OWNER

CONFIRMED WITH WRITTEN OR VERBAL CONSENT DURING ADMISSION.

• I understand, the risks of anaesthesia and any relating surgery my pet will undergo whilst at this veterinary practice. Including the small risk of death, complications, or side effects. I hereby absolve the veterinarians, staff, and this facility from all actions, arising directly or indirectly from the treatment / anaesthetic / surgery.

• The procedures/treatment my pet will receive have been explained to my satisfaction and I have been given opportunity to ask any questions regarding my pet's procedures/treatment.

• I give my permission for my pet described previously to be given a general anaesthetic / sedation / in-patient care & treatment for the reasons discussed.

• I am aware that further procedures may become necessary, and I give my permission for them to be performed if they are seen to be in the best interests for my pet's health.

Emergency treatment will be carried out as/when necessary. Euthanasia will NEVER be performed without owner consent.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

• I understand that an estimate of the costs for veterinary services will be provided upon request and that I am encouraged to discuss all fees related to such care before services are rendered and during my pets on-going medical treatment.

• Any estimates are estimates only and I agree to pay all costs associated with treatment regardless of outcome prior to the pet being discharged from the practice. This bill may be more or less than estimated due to unforeseen factors or changes in the patient's condition.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us on 01507 602828