

Your pet's upcoming surgery....What you need to know.

Prior to surgery....

1. Your pet's preanesthetic workup will need to be completed before your pet's scheduled surgery day. Please make sure you have an appointment scheduled for this.
2. The day before surgery you pet can not eat after 6pm. Please do not give your pet snacks before bedtime or breakfast in the morning. Water does not need to be withheld before surgery.

On the day of your pet's surgery...

1. When you drop your pet off for surgery, please allow extra time to fill out all the necessary consent forms.
2. Most surgeries require your pet to stay the night after surgery. Just as we would if we had surgery, your pet needs to remain quiet and calm immediately following surgery. Monitoring vital signs and for any post-operative complications is an important part of your pet's recovery.
3. It is recommended you bring in a 1-day supply of your pet's diet to insure your pet's diet is not altered after surgery.

What to expect after your pet has surgery....

After your pet leaves our hospital following a surgical procedure, there are some very important things you should be aware of. Because of our use of modern anesthetics and attention to pain management, most of our surgical patients recover from their surgical fairly quickly...however, it is your responsibility to follow the doctor's post-operative instructions carefully. Although some general instructions are listed below, you will receive specific instructions for your pet at the time of discharge.

Important Points:

1. Many patients that return home want to run and play however they must be restricted in what they are allowed to do. The amount of time of their restriction is dependant on the type of surgery; however, it is generally until the sutures are removed in 2 weeks. This restriction usually involves leash walks only to go to the bathroom for dogs, and keeping cats confined to a small room to minimize jumping or too much activity. Dogs will also be prohibited from running, jumping or playing as well as swimming or being bathed until the sutures are removed. If you are unable to restrict your pet's activity as recommended, you may want to consider leaving your pet in our care to reduce the risk of your pet getting injured at home.
2. Patients that have sutures will be released with an E-collar to prevent them from being able to chew out their sutures. It is extremely important that the E-collar not be removed until the sutures are removed. If your pet chews out the sutures, your pet may require additional anesthesia or surgery which would be at an additional expense. If you have multiple pets at home, you must ensure that one of the other pets does not chew out the sutures either.
3. Medications may be sent home with your pet. It is very important that the directions of the medication be followed and all the medication is given. Should your pet have any side effects to the medication such as vomiting, diarrhea or any other problems, you should contact our office immediately. A different medication may be needed that is better tolerated by your pet.
4. Any specific home care instructions important to your pet's particular surgery will be provided to you at the time of discharge. If you have any questions regarding your pet's home care, please be sure to ask.