



## Preparing for Surgery

### **FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY:**

#### **HOME PREPARATION FOR SURGERY:**

- ❑ No food after 8:00 p.m. the night BEFORE surgery.
- ❑ Free-choice water should remain available at all times.
- ❑ Exercise <animal> the morning of surgery before bringing to the clinic to encourage movements.

#### **WHEN <animal> IS ADMITTED:**

- ❑ Be sure to tell us about anything concerning <animal> we should know before surgery.
- ❑ Ask us any questions you might have.
- ❑ We really do want you to understand what we are doing, and why we are doing it.
- ❑ Consider additional simple procedures that are much cheaper to do when <animal> is already anesthetized for other surgery. These procedures do not greatly increase surgical time or cost. Please review the list on the back of this handout. No one likes the thought of their pet undergoing surgery, but we know there are certain problems that require surgical intervention for recovery.

**You should not be overly concerned. There have been many recent advances in veterinary surgery. Anesthesia, surgical monitoring, and surgical techniques are very advanced to ensure your pet's safety. In fact, it parallels that routinely used in human surgery.**

All Pets Receive A Presurgical Physical Examination To Determine Health Status

**PRESURGICAL SCREENING** is recommended to insure your pet's safety to diagnose any problems not readily apparent. **THESE TESTS vary with the individual case and MAY INCLUDE:**

- **Blood counts to assess blood components.**
- **Blood Chemistry Profiles to assess organ functions.**
- **Screening EKG.**
- **Urinalysis.**
- **Radiographs.**

**ANY ABNORMALITIES DIAGNOSED MAY NEED TO BE CORRECTED BEFORE SURGERY IS BEGUN.** You will be called prior to surgery if we observe additional risk factors of concern. Some pets are anemic or diabetic which increases the surgical risk, especially if not known. **Your doctor would not think of performing surgery on you without pre-laboratory surgical testing to insure safety.**

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## **ANESTHESIA.**

We currently use the same anesthesia agents as used in human heart transplant surgery. It may be more expensive for us than other options, **BUT** we only want the best for your pet, as I'm sure you do also.

## **SURGICAL TECHNIQUES.**

**All surgery is performed with sterile instruments and gloves, just as in our human counterparts. Separate sterile packs are used for each and every animal. We will not lower our high standards of quality veterinary surgery for any reason. We use only APPROVED SURGICAL MATERIALS** (which obviously may increase cost to us).

## **VITAL SIGN MONITORING.**

Surgical Vital Sign Monitoring is used routinely to ensure utmost safety of your pet. Our equipment includes both cardiac & respiratory monitoring equipment.

**Most surgical cases are sent home the same day because we know your pet is much better satisfied in the home environment--and therefore heals better.**