

Your dog has been scheduled for an upcoming surgery in the near future. In our attempt to assist clients, we have put together this packet to make the surgery day as easy and stress-free as possible for both you and your pet.

You'll find the following information in this packet:

1. Preparing: what to expect and what to do for your pet;
2. Surgical Information: What happens during surgery and at discharge
3. What to expect after surgery: What's normal, when to call us, and scheduled follow-ups.
4. Pre-Anesthetic testing: Why we recommend/require and what information it gives us.

Preparing & What to Expect

At Home Pre-Surgical Medication

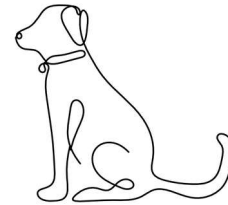
Because we know that a successful surgical experience begins prior to surgery, we have prescribed specific medication or a combination of medications to alleviate stress, anxiety, and discomfort on surgery day. These medications are to be administered **at home, the morning prior to surgery**, as prescribed specifically for your dog.

Recognizing and treating this stress prior to arriving at the hospital has been proven to be much more effective than waiting to treat an already stressed animal.

1. **Cerenia** (maropitant): This medication is a very effective antiemetic (stops nausea and vomiting). One of the most common side effects of the medications used during anesthesia is nausea and vomiting. Preventing this side effect is important to keeping your pet comfortable.
2. **Trazodone** (anti-anxiety): We routinely prescribe trazodone for anxiety as it is very safe and effective. This will allow your pet to feel less stress, which will allow them to be more relaxed before and immediately after surgery.
3. **Gabapentin**: In veterinary medicine, gabapentin is often prescribed to be given with other medications to alleviate pain and/or anxiety. For our surgery patients we administer it with trazodone, which improves the effectiveness of the trazodone, without needing a higher dose.

If we have prescribed different medications for your pet than is listed above, your pet's medications may vary from what is listed above.

Important: You may notice that your pet is abnormally sleepy or even reluctant to move when the medications take effect. This is a normal response when your pet is not in a stressed state, however- as soon as you arrive for their appointment, the stress response kicks in. Therefore, it is important to administer these medications as directed at home.



What to expect:

48 hours before your pet's procedure:

- You will receive a text message and/or email asking you to confirm your pet's procedure
- We will confirm that you have picked up the pre-surgical medications and information packet

The night before your pet's procedure:

- Withhold all food and treats after 10 PM
- Do not withhold water

The morning of your pet's procedure:

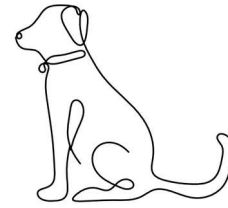
- Continue withholding food
- Water can be left down unless otherwise instructed
- ALL Pets will be prescribed doses of pre-visit medication that is appropriate for your pet to be given 2 hours before their surgical drop-off time.
- Your pet can go outside to go to the bathroom as normal, unless otherwise directed. If your pet does not go to the bathroom, please let us know.

Admission:

- One of our team members will review the treatment consent with you confirming the procedure/treatments to be performed and have you sign the consent form.
- You will be given another copy of the estimate for your pet's procedure to sign.
- You will be asked to confirm an emergency phone number
- Our team will confirm the time for you to arrive for their discharge appointment
- Your pet will be taken to our treatment area to wait for their surgery. Any necessary pre-anesthetic diagnostic testing will be performed before surgery.
- You are welcome to check up on your pet's status. However, we request that you allow plenty of time for your pet's procedure to be done. You may not be able to talk directly to the medical team until discharge.

Discharge:

- A medical team member will verbally review all discharge orders and give you a written copy. If you do not understand any instructions, please do not hesitate to ask them to go over them one more time.
- The customer service representative will discuss and complete the invoice for the services completed.
- If needed, you will be scheduled for any recheck or suture removal appointments.
- If your pet has sutures or staples placed, they will be sent home with an E-collar (aka the "cone of shame") to prohibit licking or chewing at the surgery site. If you are concerned that this E-collar will cause additional stress, please let us know, and we will prescribe additional medications to alleviate this stress. You can also look into alternative options to protect the surgery site such as a donut type collar or a "recovery suit".

**Follow Up:**

- You will receive a text message from us the day after your procedure to check in on how your pet is doing and if you have any concerns or questions.
- If necessary, an appointment to remove sutures or staples will have been scheduled at your discharge appointment. This is typically scheduled 10-14 days after the procedure.
- It is normal for your pet to be lethargic, restless, and/or have decreased appetite up to 48 hours after their procedure.
- Your pet should be able to walk, go to the bathroom, and be responsive immediately when they are discharged.
- Overall your pet should be acting like their normal self 24-48 hours after the procedure. You will have specific instructions on how to monitor their incision(s) in your discharge paperwork.
- If you have any questions or concerns at any time during your pet's recovery, do not hesitate to contact us.

Surgical Information

Anesthesia or Sedation

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications/injectable and/or inhalant anesthetic to achieve optimum levels of sedation or anesthesia that are most safe for your pet. This protocol is pre-determined based on the procedure and the health status of your dog.

Anesthesia: For most procedures, your pet is anesthetized and then intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea or windpipe). This will ensure that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times and prevents aspiration of any fluids into the lungs.

Sedation: For minor procedures, heavy sedation may be the best option. Sedation is administered via an injection and allows your pet to sleep comfortably throughout the procedure. The dog breathes normally, without assistance. The recovery period for sedation procedures is typically shorter than for anesthesia.

For procedures that require minimal sedation, different protocols will be used according to procedure requirements.

Intravenous Catheterization and Fluids

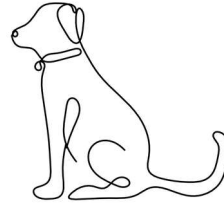
An IV catheter is placed before anesthesia is administered. This IV catheter allows us to have quick venous access to administer additional medications, including additional pain relief, control blood pressure, heart rate, and/or rhythm during surgery. IV fluids are administered to maintain blood pressure and help prevent dehydration during surgery, which allows for a quicker recovery from medications.

Monitoring

No matter if your pet is anesthetized or sedation, all patients are continuously monitored by the licensed veterinary technician (LVT) on their case as well as monitoring equipment. Their LVT is assigned to their patients for the entire day and monitors them before, during, and after their procedure. Heart rate and rhythm, oxygen levels, carbon dioxide levels, blood pressure, and temperature are continuously monitored for the duration of the surgical procedure to ensure that the patient maintains the proper levels for each vital statistic. Monitoring and nursing care is continued during the recovery period.

Pain Management

Our clinic strongly believes in compassionate, quality medical care for our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain management before, during, and after surgery. Pain relief medication is often prescribed to be administered at home as well.



Pre-anesthetic Blood Testing

Our greatest concern is the well-being of your pet. Any surgery entails some risk. **To minimize and manage this risk, Pre-anaesthetic blood testing is strongly recommended for all pets undergoing general anesthesia (or heavy sedation) during routine surgeries (Sprays/Neuters) and is required for all patients over 7 years of age or those having non-routine surgeries and in patients with known health issues.**

The **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** helps alert the medical team to underlying disease that could complicate the procedure. This bloodwork detects abnormalities that could complicate the procedure, ie. the presence of dehydration, anemia, infection, underlying organ dysfunction or disease. These tests provide information about how well your pet's major organs (for example, liver and kidneys) are working so we are able to tailor medications/anesthetics specifically for your pet and ensure a smooth recovery.

Even in seemingly healthy dogs and cats, pre-anesthetic blood testing can pick up previously unidentified medical conditions. These tests are similar to those your own physician would run if you were to undergo anesthesia.

The Authorization Form you will sign on your pet's procedure date will authorize this blood work.

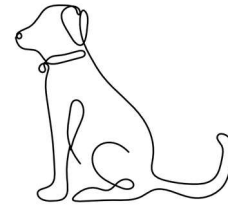
We strive to make all clients and pets' surgical procedures as pleasant an experience as possible. Our team realizes that surgery can be an anxious time, and we are always available to answer any questions concerning the upcoming procedure.

This is a team effort and you are one of the most important members of the team! We look forward to serving you and your pet on their upcoming surgery day and for years to come.

If you have any questions or hesitations about the scheduled procedure, please do not hesitate to call us to discuss any aspect of the upcoming procedure.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide your pet's care and the trust you place in us.

Know Your Ways To Pay



We know that sometimes the cost of veterinary care can feel like a hurdle. That's why Compassionate Veterinary Care partners with a few trusted companies that offer flexible financing options—so your pet can get the care they need, and you can breathe a little easier.

CareCredit

CareCredit is a healthcare credit card that works not only at vet clinics but also with many other medical providers. At CVC, we accept CareCredit's 6-month no-interest plan on purchases over \$200 (as long as it's paid in full during the promo period).

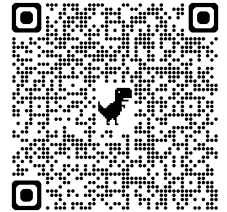
Learn more or apply on their website using this QR code:



All Pet Card

A credit card designed specifically for veterinary care, All Pet Card often approves higher credit limits and has strong approval rates. We offer their 6-month no-interest plan on purchases over \$250.

Find out more information or get pre-approved using this QR code:



Scratch Pay

Scratch Pay offers simple, one-time loans with three different payment plan options to fit your budget. A down payment is required, and the loan must be used at one provider within a set time frame. Good news—checking your rate won't affect your credit score, and you'll get an instant decision.

Find out more information using this QR code or text PLAN to 97364:



Pawlicy Advisor

Looking into pet insurance? Pawlicy Advisor compares plans from multiple providers to help you find the right coverage at a price that fits. You can even talk to a real advisor—for free—if you need help understanding your options.

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