

Surgical Information Packet

Dear Client,

Your pet has been scheduled for an upcoming surgery. In the attempt to assist our clients, we have put together this packet to make surgery day as easy and stress free as possible. Please read the enclosed information carefully and feel free to call us with any questions at (251)649-6709.

On the day of surgery, you will be required to sign a surgical release form on which you may choose optional services such as pre-anesthetic blood work and post-surgical laser treatment. You will also need to leave at least one phone number you can be reached at throughout the day. **Failure to be reachable on the day of surgery may result in postponement of your pet's procedure.**

****PRE-SURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS****

- **Nothing to eat or drink the night before after 10:00PM**
- **Nothing to eat or drink the morning of**
- **Give any medications your pet is currently taking unless instructed otherwise and let us know what medications were given and at what time**
- **Drop off is 7:30AM - 8:00AM**
- **If unsure about any of the above instructions, please call us at (251)649-6709.**

At drop off, our team will go through the surgical release form with you and address any questions or concerns you may have. Your pet will then be escorted to our surgical prep area where any pre-anesthetic testing will be conducted and they will wait until their procedure. If any questions arise, the staff will contact you at the phone number(s) provided on the surgical release form. You are welcome to check on your pet's status, however, we request that you allow ample time for any procedures to be completed. When you arrive to pick up your pet, you will be billed out by a receptionist and one of our staff will bring you your pet and go over your discharge instructions. If you do not understand any of the instructions, do not hesitate to ask for further explanation.

Our goal is for surgery day to be a pleasant and successful experience for both you and your pet. We are aware leaving your pets/surgery can be stressful so we are always happy to address any questions or concerns you may have about an upcoming procedure.

Sincerely,

The staff of TLC Veterinary Hospital

Pre-Anesthetic Blood Work Information

Our greatest concern is the safety of your pet. As such, we strongly recommend pre-anesthetic blood work for all patients and sometimes require it for senior pets (7+ years) before undergoing anesthesia. This blood profile allows us to detect numerous health issues such as dehydration, anemia, infection, kidney/liver disease, etc. that may cause complications or necessitate postponement of your pet's procedure. This blood work may also serve as a baseline for comparison if your pet gets sick in the future. These tests are similar to those your own physician would run if you were to undergo anesthesia.

For our feline patients, we also offer the FeLV/FIV test. We highly recommend this test be done at least once in their lives. Because Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (Feline AIDS) have no cure, testing and vaccinating for these diseases is strongly recommended. Ask our team if you would like more information on Feline Leukemia or FIV.

Anesthetic Procedures and Risks

We use injectable and/or inhalant anesthetic medications to achieve optimal levels of safe sedation for your pet. For most procedures, your pet is induced with an anesthetic injection and then intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea or wind pipe). This ensures your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times and prevents aspiration of fluids into the lungs. Anesthesia is maintained with a gas anesthetic, Sevoflurane or Isoflurane, that is very safe and is not metabolized by the body allowing more control of the depth of sedation and causing less irritation to the airways. For short procedures, an anesthetic injection is given alone to produce an ideal plane of sedation with a quick recovery.

Monitoring and Pain Management

Monitoring patients under anesthesia is two-fold. First, a veterinary technician is continuously with your pet from induction through recovery. Secondly, patients are monitored by computerized equipment that measures heart rate, oxygen levels, respiration, and temperature.

To reduce discomfort and aid in faster recovery, all patients receive pain management before, during, and after surgery. Medications may be sent home for use after surgery as part of your pet's personalized pain management plan.

We highly recommend, but do not require, placement of an IV catheter and use of fluids during all anesthetic procedures. In addition to providing support to the circulatory system, preventing dehydration, and enabling a quicker recovery from anesthesia, this allows for more efficient treatment should an emergency situation arise during or after surgery.

Potential Surgical Complications

- Spay: bleeding, infection, recurrent heat, urinary incontinence, weight gain, suture reaction, etc.
- Neuter: bleeding, infection, testicular swelling, suture reaction, etc.
- Feline Declaw: blood clots, bleeding, infection, limping/lameness, regrowth of nail, etc.
- Mass/Tumor Removal: bleeding, infection, swelling, drainage, suture reaction, etc.

It is important you understand there is always a risk of complications anytime an anesthetic procedure is performed. We strive to take all possible precautions and provide the highest quality of care for your pet to avoid potential problems. Thank you for entrusting your pet's care to us.