

## PRESURGICAL INFORMATION

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 insure your pet's safety. In fact, it parallels that routinely used in human surgery.

All Pets Receive A Pre-surgical 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.
- Urinalysis.
- Radiographs.
- EKG

**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 prelaboratory surgical testing to insure safety. 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. 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).

Surgical Vital Sign Monitoring is used routinely to insure utmost safety. 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

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

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

- No food after midnight the night before surgery.
- Free-choice water should remain available at all times.
- Exercise your pet the morning of surgery before bringing to the clinic to encourage movements.

#### **WHEN THE PET IS ADMITTED:**

- Be sure to tell us about anything concerning your pet 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 the pet 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.

## **OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR ELECTIVE PROCEDURES**

On the morning of the surgery, at the time you drop off your pet, a surgical assistant will review the procedure details with you and discuss any options that may be available. Some of the options that might be available are:

### **Pre-Surgical Profile**

Pre surgical blood profiles help insure the safety and success of surgical procedures. Although abnormalities are uncommon, we sometimes see problems such as anemia, platelet (bleeding) disorders, blood cell changes, and organ dysfunction, which may influence or be influenced by anesthesia or the procedure. Additionally, it provides baseline data for future comparisons and gaining a general health assessment. Two profiles are usually available, differing in detail and expense. The minor panel includes only the values most important to the evaluation of safe anesthesia. The major panel gives much more information and is always recommended for senior pets (7 years and older) for an assessment of overall health.

### **Pre-anesthetic ECG**

An ECG provides a tracing of the electrical activity of the heart. Although abnormalities known as “arrhythmias” are rare, identifying them prior to anesthesia can prevent serious complications.

### **Intravenous Catheterization**

An IV catheter is a device that allows for the rapid delivery of fluids and medications directly into the bloodstream. Although anesthetic emergencies are rare, when they occur, an open line into the bloodstream can save precious minutes in the delivery of life saving drugs. The use of IV fluids is highly recommended for all pets, but is mandatory for most non-elective procedures and elective procedures in patients over 10 years of age or those with pre-existing organ dysfunction.

### **IV Fluids**

The administration of intravenous fluids into the bloodstream helps maintain blood pressure and preserve health and function of vital organs such as the kidney and liver. The use of IV fluids is mandatory for most non elective procedures and elective procedures in patients over 10 years of age or patients with pre-existing organ dysfunction. It is a highly recommended safety option in younger pets undergoing most elective procedures.

### **Take-home pain medication**

Today’s anesthetic agents are extremely safe, largely do to their quick exit from the body. The down side is that they leave little residual pain relief. Grafton Animal Hospital always administers short-term pain meds that will be working when the pet wakes up from anesthesia. For some procedures, the doctor will recommend a take-home pain medication.

### **Discounts for Safety and Comfort Packages**

The above procedures may be mandatory or optional depending on the procedure and the patient. A discount of 10% is given when 2 or more of these options are chosen, to assist with the financial burden of increasing the safety and comfort level for our pets.