



What to Expect at Your Pet's Surgery

Your pet will soon have general anesthesia and/or surgery. Depending on the procedure, some of the following may not apply to you. However, remember that even so-called "routine" procedures such as ovariohysterectomies (spays) and orchietomies (neuters) are major surgeries, so you should be prepared for a few things. Please know that, as always, your pet's comfort and safety are our primary considerations.

Proper Restraint: Please protect your pet when entering and exiting the hospital by using either a leash or a carrier. Plan to keep them indoors for at least 24 hours after surgery. Plan to keep recently spayed females isolated from intact males for 1 week after surgery.

Admissions: Please have your pet here between 7:00 AM and 8:00 AM unless directed otherwise, and allow 20 minutes for the admissions process. If you will not have time for this at drop-off, please stop by some time prior to the surgery day to go over procedures with our staff. This may also be done over the phone, but it is better in person. Pickups are generally between 4:30-6:00 PM.

Food and Water: Please restrict food from your pet after 10:00 PM the night before surgery. They can have water, but no food after 10 PM the night before.

Clipping: Expect your pet to have the hair shaved from the surgical site. This may be an area much larger than you anticipated, but it will grow back. In most cases your pet will also have hair clipped from one or both front legs for placement of an IV Catheter.

Sutures: In most cases, we use internal, dissolving sutures and no suture removal is necessary. Usually, you will not need to clean or medicate the suture line.

Litterboxes: In most cases cats can have their normal litter. If they will be declawed, please use shredded newspaper or "Yesterday's News" for litter for 5 days.

Pre-Anesthetic Bloodwork: We routinely perform a very basic blood screening on all anesthetized patients. Extended blood work is recommended, and may be elected by you. This extended blood work often includes blood clotting tests, full chemistry panels, EKG, etc. The cost ranges from \$63.50 to \$87.00. For pets over 7 years of age, we recommend a full Senior Health Profile instead.

Quality care: Anesthesia and surgery can be the most stressful time for your pet, as well as for Mom & Dad. Below are some of the special precautions we take at Kyle Animal Hospital to help ensure your pet's comfort and safety.

- **Proper pain control:** We now know that pets experience pain in much the way that we do. Proper pain control involves not only anesthesia, but a variety of additional medications given for the sole purpose of relieving operative pain. We use an average of three medications for pain alone for most procedures, plus local anesthetics. In addition, we send home pain medication for an average of 4 days after surgery.
- **Heated surgery table:** We are very proud of our state of the art, heated surgery table. This allows us to keep our patient's temperature up during surgery, providing safer, smoother recoveries. We do not use external heating pads which can burn your pet.
- **Proper surgical suite:** Our surgical suite is state of the art, with central oxygen supply and negative pressure waste anesthetic gas scavenging. This was plumbed by a MedGas certified plumber, the same as you would find in advanced human surgery suites. All of our surgeons wear cap, mask, and sterile gown for surgeries; all assistants are fully capped and masked.
- **Precision Instruments:** Our instruments are top of the line surgical instruments. This means there is less chance of an instrument slipping and causing unnecessary blood loss during surgery. The cost difference can be in the hundreds of dollars per instrument.
- **Precision Suture Material:** We use the strongest, best quality suture material available. This is called PDS. This allows us to bury our sutures, causing less chance of infection or of sutures pulling out. In most cases, no suture removal is necessary.
- **IV Catheters:** All patients receiving deep general anesthesia have an IV Catheter placed prior to anesthesia. This allows us to administer medications more comfortably to your pet, and provides us access to a vein should an emergency arise during anesthesia.
- **Radiopaque sponges:** We perform sponge and instrument counts before and after our major procedures. In addition, we use X-ray detectable (radiopaque) gauze sponges. If there ever is any doubt, we can find out with a simple x-ray rather than repeat surgery.
- **Emergency Drugs:** We keep a supply of the most advanced emergency drugs available, including synthetic blood expanders.
- **Proper Monitoring:** In addition to external monitors, we have a surgical assistant dedicated exclusively to monitoring anesthesia. This assistant constantly monitors and records important parameters such as pulse, respiratory rate, fluid rates, blood oxygen saturation, blood pressure, EKG, etc. We generate anesthetic monitoring records on every anesthetized patient, from the time they are anesthetized until well after they are fully recovered.
- **Proper Anesthetics:** We use Propofol and Isoflurane for most procedures; these are some of the newest generation anesthetic agents available. Our newer anesthetics are much safer and more effective than the older drugs.

Please have your pet here at the hospital no later than 8:00 AM. Plan to have enough time to fill out a small amount of paperwork (20 minutes). Please be sure to leave a contact phone number where you can be reached all day. We do attempt to contact every owner once the pet is awake, but do not hesitate to call us at any time. In most cases, your pet will be ready to go home between 4:30PM and 6:00 PM. Please contact us at 268-5003 if you have any questions prior to your pet's surgery.