

SURGICAL INFORMATION PACKET

Your pet 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 surgery day as easy and stress-free as possible. In addition to this letter, you will find that the following information has been enclosed:

1. Pre-Anesthetic Blood Testing Information Form (**Bring in Day of Surgery**)
2. Surgical Information Sheet (**Bring in Day of Surgery**)

Please read carefully all the enclosed information. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at (207) 834-5077.

On your pet's surgery day, we require you to review and sign an **Authorization Form** which allows you to choose optional services. We require a phone number(s) where you can be reached surgery day. **Failure to be reached on the day of the procedure may result in postponement of the surgery.**

The night before your pet's surgery

- **Withhold all food and water after midnight**
- **If you are currently administering any medications, vitamins and/or injections, withhold the morning doses unless otherwise instructed by the doctor.**

Please make arrangements for your pet to be dropped off at 8:00 on the morning of scheduled surgery, unless other arrangements have been made in advance. For example, clients with morning scheduling problems may elect to drop their pets off the afternoon prior to surgery.

At time of drop off, our team will be happy to answer any questions/concerns and collect the enclosed/completed **Authorization Form**. Our veterinary technician will escort your pet to the surgical prepping area to wait for their surgery. If you have elected any of the recommended blood tests, our staff will collect all blood samples and perform tests prior to surgery. If any questions arise, the doctor may contact you at the number on the Authorization Form.

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. At this time, we will be able to give you an idea when your pet may be ready to go home. When you arrive to take your pet home, the receptionist will bill you out, go over all discharge orders verbally and give you a written copy. If you do not understand any instructions, please do not hesitate to ask!

We hope surgery day will be a pleasant experience. Remember, our team knows surgery can be an anxious time and we are always available to answer any and all questions concerning the upcoming procedure.

We look forward to serving you and your pet on the upcoming surgery day and years to come.

PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOOD TESTING INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Our greatest concern is the well being of your pet. We highly recommend and sometimes require that a **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** be performed on all pets undergoing anesthesia to maximize patient safety.

The **Pre-Anesthetic Blood Profile** helps alert our surgeon to the presence of dehydration, anemia, infection, diabetes and/or kidney or liver disease that could complicate the procedure. These conditions may not be detected **without** a pre-anesthetic profile thus not allowing for the most appropriate and safest anesthetic regime to be administered.

These tests are similar to those your own physician would run if you were to undergo anesthesia. In addition, these tests may be useful if your pet's health changes to develop faster, more accurate diagnoses and treatments.

**State of the art equipment enables us to perform the pre-anesthetic blood profile at our hospital and we are committed to making this technology available to our patients.*

The **Authorization Form** you will sign on your pet's surgery date will offer pre-anesthetic blood work and other options.

Choices include:

- **CBC:** PCV to check for anemia, red and white blood cell count to check for infections, parasites, and bone marrow problems, and a platelet count to check for clotting disorders
- **Pre-Anesthetic Profile:** BUN and Creatinine to check kidney function, ALP and ALT to check liver function, glucose to check for diabetes and proper fasting, and total protein to check for dehydration
- **General Health Profile:** all tests in Pre-Anesthetic profile plus several others to provide a more detailed picture of liver and kidney function, plus AMYL to check for problems with the pancreas and blood calcium, which may affect the heart's rate and rhythm if out of balance.
- **T4 test:** a thyroid hormone test to evaluate your pet's metabolic state. Individuals with thyroid hormone imbalance may have trouble metabolizing medications and recovering from anesthesia.
- For dogs, **4 D test** to check for heartworms, Lyme disease, and other tick-borne diseases.
- For cats, **FeLV/FIV test** to check for the two most common feline infectious diseases which can suppress the immune system and leave your cat unable to fight off even the smallest germs.

Options for vaccine updates, deworming and application of flea/tick control products are listed on the form as well. Our staff will check your pet for fleas and go over these choices with you on the morning of surgery to help you decide what is appropriate for your pet based on his or her lifestyle.

We realize surgery and anesthesia are scary for both the owner and patient and we attempt to make surgery day as safe and comfortable for all involved. The tests performed prior to any surgical procedure allow us to best minimize anesthetic and surgical risks and maximize patient safety.

If you have any questions or hesitations about the scheduled procedure or the pre-anesthetic testing options, please do not hesitate to call us!

CLIENT INITIALS _____

SURGICAL INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Anesthetic Procedures & Risks

We use a combination of pre-anesthetic medications, injectable anesthetics, and/or inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimum levels of anesthesia that are safe for your pet. The type of injectable anesthetic used is determined by the doctor based on your pet's species, size, health status, and results of pre-anesthetic bloodwork. We always try to use the safest possible anesthetic while maintaining a reasonable cost for the pet owner.

For most procedures, your pet is anesthetized and then masked or intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea or wind pipe). Intubation ensures that your pet is able to receive oxygen at all times and prevents aspiration of any fluids into the lungs.

For procedures that require minimum sedation, an injectable anesthetic is given that produces a good plane of sedation with quick recovery. Anesthesia is maintained with a gas anesthetic, isoflurane, which is very safe and is not metabolized by the body. This allows us to have more control over anesthetic depth and it is less irritating to the airways. Another advantage to isoflurane is a quick induction using a mask verses using injectable anesthetics that require metabolism from the body.

Monitoring & Pain Management

Monitoring of patients during anesthesia is done in two ways. First, a trained staff member is with your pet continuously from beginning of anesthesia to recovery. Second, we have a computerized monitor that displays heart rate, pulse rate, oxygen levels, and ECG throughout your pet's procedure.

Our doctor and staff strongly believe in compassionate, quality, medical care for our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain management before surgery. This allows medication to take effect before any pain is caused for optimal effect. Additionally, pain medication is routinely prescribed for patients to take at home post-operatively. Additional information will be given at discharge. We believe this policy reduces post-surgery discomfort and aids in a quicker recovery.

Potential Surgical Complications

It is important for you to understand that there is always a risk of anesthetic and surgical complications anytime surgical procedures are performed. We strive to take the highest quality care of your pet and take all the added precautions you allow to avoid potential problems. Thank you for entrusting your pet to us.

CLIENT INITIALS _____

