

## **SURGICAL INFORMATION**

Your pet \_\_\_\_\_ has been scheduled \_\_\_\_\_ for an upcoming surgery \_\_\_\_\_ in the near future. In our attempt to assist clients, we have put together this information to make surgery day as stress-free as possible.

You will be receiving a letter in the mail which also has information for you.

Please read the information carefully and if you have questions, please feel free to call us. All pets are required to have **Preanesthetic Bloodwork** performed prior to surgery. All dogs are required to be current on their vaccinations, DHPPL, Rabies and Bordetella and be current on their heartworm test (4DX Plus) which checks for heartworm and three tick borne diseases. All cats are required to be current on their PRC and Rabies vaccinations. On your pet's surgery day, we require you to review and sign an Authorization Form, which also allows you to request other services.

Please have a phone number(s) where you can be reached on 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 food after 8PM**

**-Withhold water after 10PM**

**If you are currently administering medications, vitamins and/or injections, withhold the morning dose unless instructed by the doctor.**

Please make arrangements for your pet to be dropped off on the morning of surgery between 7 & 8AM, unless other arrangements have been made in advance. If this is not possible, your pet can be dropped off the night before and a boarding fee will apply. At the time of drop off, our team will be happy to answer any questions/concerns you might have.

Any required tests not previously done will be completed at this time prior to surgery.

You are welcome to check up on your pet's status; however we requested 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 for discharge. When you arrive to take your pet home, the doctor or veterinary technician will go over discharge instructions verbally and also give you a written copy. If you do not understand any instructions, please ask for clarification.

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 hope surgery day will be a pleasant experience. We look forward to serving you and your pet on the upcoming surgery day and years to come.

**Anesthetic Procedures and Risks** ----- **With any anesthetic procedure there is always a risk of an adverse reaction by the patient.** In order to minimize this risk, we perform the **Preanesthetic Bloodwork**, perform a preoperative physical exam and monitor vital signs throughout the procedure. We use a combination of preanesthetic agents (injectables) and/or inhalant anesthetics to achieve optimum levels of anesthesia that are safe for your pet.

**For short procedures**, an injectable anesthetic may be given alone or in combination with an injectable pain medication to produce a good level of anesthesia with a quick recovery.

**For most procedures**, your pet is anesthetized with an injectable anesthetic, the pet is then intubated (insertion of a tube into the trachea or wind pipe) to administer a gas anesthetic and oxygen at all times during the procedure. It also prevents any fluids from being aspirated into the lungs. Isoflurane is used most often used as the gas anesthetic, it is safe and cleared quickly from the body.

**Monitoring and Pain Management-** Monitoring of patients during anesthesia is done in two ways. First, a doctor and veterinary technician or assistant is with your pet continuously from the beginning of anesthesia to recovery. Second the pet is attached to monitors that record heart rate, pulse rate, oxygen levels, respiration, ECG, blood pressure and body temperature.

Our clinic strongly believes in compassionate, quality care for our patients. As a result, all surgery patients will receive pain management for each surgery. Additionally, pain medication will be sent home for the comfort of your pet. We hope this program will reduce any discomfort experienced and aid in a quicker recovery.

### **PREANESTHETIC BLOOD TESTING INFORMATION**

Our greatest concern is for the well- being of your pet. Before putting your pet under anesthesia, we routinely perform A FULL PHYSICAL EXAM. We know that there is always a risk of your pet having an adverse reaction to an anesthetic, to help minimize complications and maximize safety, we require that all pets have a **Preanesthetic Blood Profile** done prior to surgery.

The **Preanesthetic Blood Profile** helps alert the doctor to the presence of an underlying condition, such as dehydration, anemia, infection, diabetes and/or kidney or liver disease which could complicate the procedure. Some of these conditions can only be found by performing the **Preanesthetic Blood Profile**. This allows the doctor to use the safest anesthetic protocol for your pet. These tests are similar to those your own physician would run if you were to undergo an anesthetic procedure. In addition, these tests may be useful if your pet's health changes, making it easier to develop a faster, more accurate diagnosis and treatment. "State of the art equipment (Abaxis VS 2 for blood chemistry and Abaxis HM 5 for hematology) enables us to perform the **Preanesthetic Blood Profiles** at our hospital and even on the same day as the procedure. We are committed to making this technology available for our patients."

The **Preanesthetic Blood Profile** is composed of two parts, each checking for different problems.

**Part 1.** Evaluates the CBC(Complete Blood Count), WBC(White Blood Cell Count) for infection and RBC (Red Blood Cell Count) for anemia and bleeding disorders, Platelet Count for clotting disorders and PCV(Packed Cell Volume) for anemia

**Part 2.** Evaluates the Blood Chemistry Profile, BUN & Creatinine & Phosphorus (kidney function), ALKP, ALT & TBili (liver function), Glucose (blood sugar level), Total Protein(dehydration) & Electrolytes

Pets up to 6 years of age can select the less expensive profile which is a PCV (Packed Cell Volume) from Part 1 and Part 2 (\$55.00) or select all of Part 1 and Part 2 at a slightly higher cost (\$74.00)

Pets over 6 years of age must do Part 1 and Part 2.(\$74.00) These pets are much more likely to have abnormal findings.

#### **4DX Plus Testing**

We also require all dogs to be current on the Idexx 4DX Plus Snap Test prior to surgery. This in house laboratory test checks for **Heartworm Disease** and three infectious “deer tick” borne diseases, **Lymes Disease, Ehrlichiosis** and **Anaplasmosis**. You may ask why this is important. Heartworm is a serious and sometimes fatal parasite which lives in the heart of the infected dog and is spread by mosquitos. We do not want to anesthetize an infected dog. The tick borne diseases Lymes and Anaplasmosis are common in the Elk River area. Lymes is an arthritic disease which can also affect the kidneys causing kidney failure. Ehrlichiosis affects the function of the White Blood Cells which can lead to chronic infection and even death. Anaplasmosis affects the function of the platelets in the blood which can lead to clotting failure and bleeding. These diseases can affect young animals and we have found animals as young as 4 months infected. All these diseases can cause severe complications if surgery were to be performed. Once found the surgery would be postponed and the dog treated appropriately.

#### **FELV(FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS)-FIV(FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS)-FELINE HEARTWORM**

This in house laboratory Triple Test by Idexx for cats is not required, but highly recommended. FELV & FIV are two blood borne viruses for which there is no cure. Both viruses can affect young cats and not show any symptoms until the cat is older. Feline heartworm is from the same mosquito’s that spread the disease in dogs. Cats are bitten by the mosquitos and infected. All three diseases can be fatal in cats.

**Potential Surgical Complications** - Though infrequent it is important to recognize complications following surgery. These include the following: 1. Swelling at incision site, 2. Bleeding from incision site, 3. Abnormal discharge from incision, 4. Infection, 5. Fever, 6. Inappetance for more than a day following surgery, 7. Suture reaction, 8. Pet seems unusually uncomfortable. If any of these symptoms develop please call our office.

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