



## **Happy Packs for Surgery (Canine)**

We're SO happy that you elected to purchase a Happy Pack for your pet's visit to Burch Creek Animal Hospital. As much as we love seeing your pets, we understand that coming here can be a stressful experience for your pet, and your pet's emotional well-being is just as important to us as their medical well-being.

For that reason, we recommend giving them two medications for sedation before their visit- **gabapentin** and **trazodone** - which are very safe medications that provide mild to moderate sedation and reduce anxiety. This makes their visit here a less scary experience and also allows us to use lower doses of sedation and anesthesia during surgery, because your pet is already more relaxed to begin with- and the ability for us to use lower doses of anesthesia makes the entire anesthesia procedure safer for your pet. **You give them both medications at the same time.**

Please don't be worried that they may seem quite sedate/sleepy at home - because they are normally relaxed anyway in their safe home environment; once you put them in the car and arrive at the clinic, the adrenalin of the car ride and drop off here reduces how sedate they seem- that is why we use a dose to help maintain sedation when they are here but does make them more sleepy at home.

You can also bring along a favorite toy or a blanket that smells like home- this can help comfort your pet while they are here.

**Gabapentin** is also a pain medication - so it provides **both** sedation and reduces anxiety **and** pain relief for your pet - and starting pain medication \*before\* surgery is ideal - so your pet already has pain medication on board when we start surgery.

For canine surgery patients, a Happy Pack also includes an anti- nausea medication called **Cerenia**. Because some anesthesia and pain medications cause nausea or upset stomach, we recommend giving them one dose of Cerenia at bedtime the night before their surgery, and a second dose the night you bring them home from surgery. Again- this is to improve your pet's comfort by preventing nausea, which also encourages them to eat sooner after they return home and makes the overall surgery experience more comfortable for them.

**Trazodone:** give the recommended dose at bedtime the night before surgery, and AGAIN the MORNING OF surgery, 2 hours prior to drop off.

**Gabapentin:** give the recommended dose at bedtime the night before surgery and AGAIN the MORNING OF surgery, 2 hours prior to drop off

**Cerenia:** give the recommended dose at bedtime the night before surgery, and again at bedtime the night after surgery.

Please call if you have ANY questions regarding the Happy Pack: 801-479-4410