



Happy Packs for Surgery (Feline)

We're SO happy that you elected to purchase a Happy Pack for your cat'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 your cat a medication called **gabapentin** for sedation before their visit- this is a very safe medication that provides mild to moderate sedation and reduces their anxiety. This makes their visit here a less scary experience and also allows us to use lower doses of sedation and anesthesia drugs 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.

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, a blanket that smells like home and/or their favorite treats to their visit- this can help comfort your pet while they are here.

Gabapentin is also a pain medication - so it provides **both** sedation and anti-anxiety effects **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.

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

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