

## Preparing for Surgery Drop Off:

1. **Happy Packs:** Please make sure you have picked up your Happy Pack medications prior to their surgery appointment. You start these at bedtime ***the night BEFORE*** surgery drop off and also give a dose ***the morning OF*** surgery.
  - a. *What is a happy pack?* 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.
  - b. For that reason, we recommend giving them medication(s)- **gabapentin (cats and dogs)** and **trazodone (dogs)** - 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.
  - c. For dogs, the Happy Pack also includes a medication called Cerenia that prevents nausea; for cats- we recommend that we give this medication as an injection after they are sedated because cats can be difficult to give this pill ahead of time.
  - d. It is ok to give these medications in a small amount of wet food, cheese, etc - please just do not feed a meal as we need your pet fasted for surgery, but a small piece of cheese, peanut butter, wet food, etc to give these meds is fine.
2. **Other medications:** there are some other medications that your pet may be on that we **DO** want you to give the morning of their anesthesia. ***These include antibiotics, insulin, seizure medications, some heart medications, Vetoryl and thyroid medications.*** If you are unsure, please call to ask us. If any of these medications need to be given in a small meatball of food to administer, that is fine.
3. **Blood clotting medications:** If your pet is on any medications to prevent blood clotting such as ***plavix (clopidogrel) or aspirin***, these may need to be stopped several days to weeks before surgery- **please discuss this with your veterinarian.**
4. **Diabetic patients:** the night before surgery/anesthesia- feed as usual and give your pet's normal/full dose of insulin; the day OF surgery/anesthesia - give **HALF** of your pet's normal dose of insulin along with a small meal. ***Please BRING YOUR PET'S INSULIN along with them the day of their procedure in case we need to give more after anesthesia.***

5. **Heart medications:** if your pet takes Vetmedin (pimobendan) and/or furosemide, please give these medications on their normal schedule including the morning of anesthesia. ***If your pet takes enalapril or benazepril please do NOT give these medications the morning of anesthesia.***
  
6. **Food/water:**
  - a. **CATS and DOGS:** please do not feed your pet any meals after midnight; a small meatball or treat to give them any prescribed medications needed at bedtime and the morning of drop off is fine. *(exception: diabetic patients can have a small meal with their insulin the morning of anesthesia)*. Your pet may have free access to water up until drop off.
  
  - b. **EXOTICS/SMALL MAMMALS:** **do NOT fast your pet;** continue to allow them free access to their food and water until drop off. **PLEASE BRING** a small amount of their food and water container along for us to offer both pre and post op for your pet.
  
7. **Please arrive at your pre-scheduled drop off time** (typically 7:30 am). You and your pet will be placed in an exam room and a surgery technician will go through the check-in process with you and answer any questions you have. They will go over a treatment plan and associated costs for your pet's surgical procedure and discuss any recommended but optional tests, treatments or medications.
  
8. **You may bring along a blanket or toy from home.** It can be comforting to have something familiar that smells like home with your pet while they are in the hospital. Please only bring something that you don't mind getting dirty while they are here- (they might pee or poop on this during recovery).
  
9. **We typically offer a small amount of food** to our surgery patients after they are recovered from anesthesia. If your pet has a food allergy, needs a special prescription diet or you want us to only feed them a specific food or treat, please bring this along.

#### **Pre-anesthesia Screening:**

We recommend blood work prior to anesthesia on all pets, regardless of age, to screen for any abnormalities that may require a change in anesthesia/drug plan or delay of anesthesia/surgery. Bloodwork is **required** for all pets over the age of 7 years. In most cases, your pet's blood work will have already been completed at an appointment prior to the day of drop off; if not, it will be run in house the morning of their procedure.

#### **Surgery/Anesthesia:**

Sedated procedures and surgeries are performed in the morning and for most procedures, your pet will go home with you later in the afternoon that same day. You will receive a call or text

with an update when your pet is out of surgery and in anesthesia recovery. Later, your surgery technician will contact you to set up a discharge time for you to come pick up your pet.

**Discharge:**

For routine procedures, you will meet with your surgery technician and they will go over your pet's written detailed aftercare instructions with you. For more involved procedures, you will first have a consultation with your veterinarian/surgeon and then go over aftercare instructions with your technician.

**After Hours Care:**

If you have any questions or concerns about your pet after hours, the emergency contact information (MedVet ER) is included in your written discharge instructions.